Greetings! The INFORMS Simulation Society continues its tradition of maintaining a high level of activity within the simulation community and as a significant part of the INFORMS organization.

Activities over the spring and summer included the election of two new I-Sim Council members. John Shortle and Loo Hay Lee were elected and have begun their terms of service. Special thanks to John Miller and Russell Cheng, who have now completed their terms of service as Council members.

The 2009 INFORMS Simulation Research Workshop was successfully held June 25-27, 2009 at the University of Warwick in Coventry, U.K. The workshop which included papers presented around the theme, Simulation: At the Interface of Modeling and Analysis, was organized by Michael Kuhl, John Fowler, Stewart Robinson, and Loo Hay Lee.

As you will see in the financial report in this newsletter, a distribution was made from the Winter Simulation Conference to the sponsoring societies. This is a result of the new WSC Joint Sponsorship Agreement that was entered into by the WSC sponsoring societies last year. Although I-Sim is currently in fine financial shape, the newly distributed funds are planned to be reserved initially in the event that additional funds will be needed from WSC sponsoring societies for future WSC conference planning purposes.

During the fall and winter, I-Sim activities will include a large group of sponsored sessions at the INFORMS Annual Fall Meeting which will be held in San Diego, CA. I hope to see many of you there. We will hold an I-Sim business meeting at this meeting on Sunday, October 11. In December 13-16, the Winter Simulation Conference will be in Austin, Texas during which we will also hold an I-Sim business meeting.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any ideas or suggestions you have about enhancing I-Sim and the benefits that I-Sim provides to you, our members. I look forward to the activities and events of the coming months.
Editor’s Corner

Raghu Pasupathy

Greetings! It is a pleasure to bring you the Fall 2009 edition of the I-Sim newsletter. In addition to the regular features, this edition carries highlights of two international conferences/workshops to be held in the U.K. and Argentina. This is in addition to the 2009 INFORMS Annual Conference (Oct. 11 – 14, San Diego, CA.) and the 2009 Winter Simulation Conference (Dec. 13 – 16, Austin, TX.). We look forward to seeing you in San Diego and Austin, particularly at the I-Sim business meetings.

Please pass along printouts of the newsletter to friends and colleagues, or let them know about the INFORMS Simulation Society World Wide Web page. You'll get more than just a newsletter. Its URL is

http://www.informs-sim.org/

This web page is designed to be a general source of information and WWW links for the simulation community, with a particular focus on society interests and activities. There are often additional special items, such as WSC’07, and upcoming INFORMS conferences.
INFORMS Simulation Society Treasurer’s Report
Bahar Biller

Unaudited Retained Earnings Statement For the Three Months Ending June 30, 2009

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R/E Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$ 74191.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Revenue</td>
<td>$ 27345.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Expense</td>
<td>$ 434.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R/E Ending Balance</td>
<td>$ 101102.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Future Dues Revenue</td>
<td>$ 70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deferred Future Dues Revenue</td>
<td>$ 70.00</td>
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Profit and Loss Summaries For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2009

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<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues Revenue</td>
<td>$ 5055.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues --- Contra Promo</td>
<td>$ -445.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorships</td>
<td>$ 22735.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$ 27345.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Meeting Expense</td>
<td>$ 320.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Expense</td>
<td>$ 113.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$ 434.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Society Sponsors Under-Represented Minorities and Women
Bahar Biller

In order 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 the 2009 Winter Simulation Conference (WSC). Each award will consist of an honorarium of about $100.00, which can be applied towards the student registration fee for WSC. Prospective candidates should provide a letter of interest and a letter of recommendation explaining how the WSC can make a positive contribution to expanding their knowledge on simulation, and demonstrating the applicant's promise as a member of the simulation community. Please submit your application package electronically by November 1st to Bahar Biller at billerb@andrew.cmu.edu.

Secretary’s Corner
Theresa Roeder

Welcome! As I write this, INFORMS is fast approaching. I know I’m looking forward to a trip to sunny San Diego. It’s been several years since I’ve had the opportunity to attend the INFORMS annual conference, and I’m looking forward to going to many interesting sessions and meeting up with colleagues and friends.

As of 8/31/09, the Society had 536 active members. 527 of those memberships are due to expire at the end of the year, so please remember to renew! You should be able to do this online again beginning in early October. (Last year’s site was http://renew.informs.org.) One of the big benefits of renewing is the discount you receive on registration for I-Sim-sponsored conferences…like the Winter Simulation Conference coming up in December! Austin is a great city, and I hope all of you will be able to join us.

If you are renewing online, take a quick look to make sure your information is current. If you are not currently a member, we would love to have you! For more information on joining the Society, please visit http://www.informs-sim.org/join.html.

I’m looking forward to seeing you in San Diego and Austin!
The INFORMS Fall Meeting is coming up soon: it will be held in San Diego, California, October 11-14, at the San Diego Convention Center and Hilton San Diego. The INFORMS Simulation Society will make a strong contribution to the program with 16 sponsored sessions comprised of 60 papers. Many thanks to the session organizers: Sigrun Andradottir, Hernan Awad, Jose Blanchet, Rafael Diaz, Eva Enns, Scott Grasman, Dean Hartley, Charles Macal, Vijay Mehrotra, Elmira Popova, Leyuan Shi, Young-Jun Son, Hong Wan, Pres White, and Enlu Zhou. We hope to see you at the I-Sim business meeting on Sunday evening. For more details, see http://meetings.informs.org/sandiego09.

2009 Winter Simulation Conference
Austin, Texas, December 13-16
Peter J. Haas (source: http://www.wintersim.org)

The theme of WSC ’09 is “Energy Alternatives.” The conference will be held at the Hilton Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas, on December 13-16, 2009. WSC ’09 features a comprehensive program ranging from introductory tutorials and a hands-on introductory workshop to state-of-the-art research and practice. The conference includes student presentations, exhibits, training sessions by software vendors, business meetings for professional societies and software user groups, and a general reception. Admiral Bobby R. Inman will be this year’s keynote speaker, and the popular “Titans of Simulation” track will feature talks on modeling and spreadsheet simulation by Professors Paul Fishwick and Thomas J. Schriber. As in 2008, WSC will incorporate the MASM (Modeling and Analysis for Semiconductor Manufacturing) Conference, the leading modeling and analysis conference specific to global semiconductor manufacturing and supply chain operations. The early registration deadline is November 13, 2009. For additional information about WSC ’09, visit http://www.wintersim.org.

Problem Posed
Raghu Pasupathy, adapted from “Purdue Problem of the Week.”

Let $X$ and $Y$ be two random variables defined on $[0,1]$ and having positive-valued and piecewise continuous density functions $f_X$ and $f_Y$. Show that there exists an interval $J = [a,b] \subset [0,1]$ such that $Pr\{X \in J\} = Pr\{Y \in J\} = 1/2$. 


The biennial Operational Research Society Simulation Workshop brings together practitioners and academics working in the field of discrete-event simulation and related fields. It provides an opportunity to exchange ideas on the current and future state-of-the-art in simulation and modelling. The programme consists of a keynote presentation, panel discussion and parallel streams. Breaks between sessions and the conference dinner provide an excellent opportunity for networking. The exhibition area includes some of the latest developments in simulation software tools. The conference will be held at the Abbey Hotel Golf and Country Club, which is situated in Worcestershire, England. In addition to keynote, panel, and parallel paper sessions, the conference will include a Simulation Practice stream, which provides an opportunity to submit short papers (3 to 5 pages). The exhibition area will include some of the latest developments in simulation software tools. Potential speakers should apply directly to the workshop. For more information, follow the link to this conference on the I-Sim webpage (http://www.informs-sim.org).

The Simulation Society plans to sponsor sessions at the ALIO-INFORMS 2010 Joint International Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 6-9, 2010. If you would like to organize a session for the conference or give a presentation in an I-SIM sponsored session, please contact Peter Haas (peterh@almaden.ibm.com) as soon as possible. The deadline for submitting abstracts is February 1, 2010. For details about the conference, please visit the conference website at http://meetings.informs.org/BuenosAires2010.
Report on the Informs Journal on Computing

Marvin Nakayama, Simulation Area Editor

This report covers the editorial activities for the simulation area of the Informs Journal on Computing (JOC) during the period from September 1, 2008, to August 31, 2009. During this time, there were 14 new submissions, 5 accepts, 11 rejects, and 7 revise-and-resubmits. The average turnaround over all rounds of submission completed during this period was 43 days.

The Associate Editors in the JOC Simulation Area are Russell Barton, James M. Calvin, Bruno Tuffin and Enver Yucesan. The JOC Simulation Area covers all computational aspects of simulation. We seek high-quality papers 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-optimization, variance-reduction methods for simulation experiments, and other aspects of simulation modeling, experimentation, and analysis. Tutorials and applications in the above areas that are comprehensive and integrate from multiple sources are also welcome.

All submissions must be made electronically through Manuscript Central. Complete instructions for authors are available at http://joc.pubs.informs.org.

Report on the Simulation Area for Operations Research

Shane G. Henderson, Operations Research Simulation Area Editor, August 24, 2009

Activity in the Simulation Area of Operations Research (Feb. 10, 2009 to August 24, 2009)

For the period specified, there were 17 new submissions and 13 resubmissions. There were 11 rejections, 9 revise-and-resubmit decisions and 3 acceptances. For decisions on new submissions made in this period, 1 was late (between 4 and 6 months from date of submission) and none were very late. For decisions on resubmissions, 2 were late (more than 2 months from date of resubmission).

The Associate Editors continue to be Steve Chick, Peter Haas, Tito Homem-de-Mello, Jeff Hong and Seong-Hee Kim. Many thanks to them for their tremendous efforts!

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).

Problem Solved

Raghu Pasupathy

The median $m$ of the random variable $X$ is unique, i.e., there exists a unique number $m \in (0,1)$ such that $Pr\{X \leq m\} = 1/2$ and $Pr\{X > m\} = 1/2$. Also, for every $c_i \in [0,m]$ there exists $c_u(c_i) \in [m,1]$ such that $Pr\{X \in [c_u(c_i),1]\} = 1/2$.

Define $g(c_i) = Pr\{Y \in [c_i,c_u(c_i)]\}$. Clearly, $g(c_i)$ is continuous and $0 < g(c_i) < 1$. Let us suppose that $g(0) = Pr\{Y \in [0,m]\} < 1/2$. Then, $g(m) > 1/2$. Now apply the intermediate value theorem between $(0,g(0))$ and $(m,g(m))$ to conclude there exists some $a \in [0,m]$ such that $g(a) = 1/2$. (The case $g(0) = Pr\{Y \in [0,m]\} \geq 1/2$ can be handled likewise.)
Here is a summary of the editorial activities of the ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation (TOMACS) for the period January 1, 2009 - September 1, 2009:

- # Papers submitted: 81
- # Papers accepted: 13
- # Papers rejected: 43
- # Papers withdrawn: 0

As of September 1, 2009, there were 35 papers in review and 23 papers were being revised by the authors. As reported by Manuscript Central for the preceding twelve months, the average time from submission to the first editorial feedback was 60 days; and for all papers with a final decision, the average time from original submission to final decision was 45 days.

In June 2009, TOMACS made its debut in the Journal Citation Reports with an impact factor of 1.029.

From the ACM TOMACS Editorial Scope and Charter:
The ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation (TOMACS) provides a single archival source for the publication of high-quality research and developmental results in computer simulation. The subjects of emphasis are discrete event simulation, combined discrete and continuous simulation, as well as Monte Carlo methods. Papers in continuous simulation will also receive serious consideration if their contributions to modeling and simulation in general are substantial. For more information on TOMACS, visit http://www.linklings.net/tomacs/ on the Web.

Call for Nominations:
Editor-In-Chief, ACM Transactions On Modeling and Computer Simulation

The term of the current Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of the ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation (TOMACS) is coming to an end, and the ACM Publications Board has set up a nominating committee to assist the Board in selecting the next EiC.

Nominations, including self nominations, are invited for a three-year term as TOMACS EiC, beginning on February 1, 2010. The EiC appointment may be renewed at most one time. This is an entirely voluntary position, but ACM will provide appropriate administrative support.

The EiC is responsible for maintaining the highest editorial quality, for setting technical direction of the papers published in TOMACS, and for maintaining a reasonable pipeline of articles for publication. He/she has final say on acceptance of papers, size of the Editorial Board, and appointment of Associate Editors. The EiC is expected to adhere to the commitments expressed in the policy on Rights and Responsibilities in ACM Publishing (see http://www.acm.org/publications/policies/RightsResponsibilities). For more information about the role of the EiC, see ACM's Evaluation Criteria for Editors-in-Chief at http://www.acm.org/publications/policies/evaluation.

Nominations should include a vita along with a brief statement of why the nominee should be considered. Self-nominations are encouraged, and should include a statement of the candidate's vision for the future development of TOMACS. The deadline for submitting nominations is 30 November 2009, although nominations will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.

Please send nominations to the nominating committee chair, Richard Nance (nance@vt.edu). The search committee members are:

- Richard Nance (Virginia Tech), Chair
- Russell Cheng (University of Southampton)
- Peter Haas (IBM Almaden)
- James Henriksen (Wolverine Software Corp.)
- David Nicol (University of Illinois)
- Ronald Boisvert (NIST), ACM Publications Board Liaison

For more details, see http://www.linklings.net/tomacs/eicsearch.html
INFORMS-Sim News • FALL 2009

Event Calendar

Raghu Pasupathy

INFORMS Annual Meeting 2009, San Diego, California


2009 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM’09), Miami, FL., December 6 – 9, 2009, WWW: http://www.cs.umbc.edu/ICDM09/.


