Minutes of the ACM SIGSIM Membership Meeting
2016 Winter Simulation Conference
Arlington, VA, USA
December 13, 2016, 5:30 p.m. – 6:49 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. and conducted by Margaret Loper, Chair. Andreas Tolk, Vice Chair, and Kara Olson, Secretary/Treasurer, were also present.

1. Welcome, SIGSIM Mission, and Agenda (Loper)

The agenda presented during the meeting is attached.

All were welcomed to the meeting. The new officers were introduced and everyone present introduced themselves with name and affiliation.

2. PhD Colloquium Status including SIGSIM Winner (D’Ambrogio)

The slides presented during the meeting are attached.

Student Tom Warnke was present to accept the award. All of the present colloquium students were acknowledged.

3. SIGSIM Distinguished Contributions Award (Fujimoto)

No slides were presented.

Richard Fujimoto discussed how the committee had a tough choice, as there were several good applicants. Pierre L’Ecuyer was present to accept the award. Richard Fujimoto shared some nominating comments and academic biographical highlights. Pierre L’Ecuyer shared some remarks, including that he was “very honored” to receive the award, “very happy to contribute” to the ACM, and that receiving the award gave him “a lot of energy.” He stated that the Winter Simulation Conference is a big part of his life, having attended every year since 1984.

Margaret Loper stated that there will be a new nominating committee, consisting of Osman Balci (Chair), David Nicol, and Pierre L’Ecuyer.

4. TOMACS (Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation) Report (Uhrmacher)

The slides presented during the meeting are attached.
Adelinde Uhrmacher stated that there has been a steady inflow of papers, which is good - however, they’ve been generally poor papers, which is not as good. She also additionally discussed the details of the reproducibility initiative.

5. JOS (Journal of Simulation) Report (Mustafee)

The slide presented during the meeting is attached.

6. SIGSIM Website and MSKR (Modeling & Simulation Knowledge Repository) (Balci)

No slides were presented.

Osman Balci reminded everyone of the site’s presence. He solicited ideas and contributions, especially multimedia.

7. SIGSIM Social Media Initiatives (Tufarolo)

No slides were presented.

John Tufarolo discussed the known generation gap in the SIG. He discussed retweeting tweets with a SIGSIM social hashtag and asked for assistance with how others, including younger generations, interact with social media. Discussion of Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and the web in general ensued and became an open discussion.

Kara Olson inquired who is the target audience; Margaret Loper noted the intent to serve the current members but also to introduce SIGSIM to others. Richard Nance noted that he thought the SIGSIM site was the best of all of the SIG sites without a doubt, noting to Osman Balci that the site is very professional and very nice, and noting to Paul Fishwick that the SIGSIM Digest is excellent. Margaret Loper discussed various uses of Twitter, including her practice of using it as an archive tool. Tweeting and retweeting was strongly encouraged to promote SIGSIM awareness.

8. SIGSIM Digest (Fishwick)

The slide presented during the meeting is attached.

Margaret Loper discussed her and Paul Fishwick experimenting with sending the SIGSIM Digest to all SIGSIM mailing list subscribers. Paul Fishwick described the current Digest as an image blog. Welcome was given to any editors or contributors.
9. Budget and Finances (Olson)

The slides presented during the meeting are attached.

It was noted that most of SIGSIM’s funding comes from revenue from the ACM Digital Library; Richard Nance opened a discussion on the topic, mentioning the Digital Library versus, for example, ResearchGate, cautioning that such other platforms could affect the Digital Library revenue over time. Navonil Mustafee mentioned that at many universities in the United Kingdom, it is mandatory to upload a version of one’s manuscripts for free access. Andreas Tolk indicated that such a conversation has already been started, and also noted that with ResearchGate, for example, one never knows quite what one’s downloading - sometimes the papers are pre-prints and not accurate to cite.

10. SIGSIM PADS Conference 2017 (Cai)

The slides presented during the meeting are attached.

Wentong Cai noted that the Ph.D. colloquium was scheduled for the first morning of the conference so that students wouldn’t have to allot an additional day for their likely-international travel.

Margaret Loper solicited for Chairs, locations, and hosting for PADS 2018, noting that 18 months passes quickly.

11. Simulation Archives (Nance)

The slide presented during the meeting is attached.

Regarding Simula67, Richard Nance noted that it was the first object-oriented language; unfortunately, its pioneers, Ole-Johan Dahl and Kristen Nygaard, died within two months of each other, before their recollections could be recorded for the Simulation Archives. The Archives are hoping to capture the recollections of others that were immediately close to Dahl and Nygaard while they can.

It was pointed out that the Archives are an excellent place to begin a Ph.D. literature review.

Andreas Tolk recommended that SIGSIM continue its annual $5,000 endowment to the archive. The motion was seconded and easily carried. SIGSIM was thanked for its continuing support.

12. SIGSIM Student Travel Awards (Bell)

The slides presented during the meeting are attached.
Discussion was opened regarding how to solicit more applications. It was noted that many applications are from within the modeling and simulation community, and was questioned whether more effort should go toward bringing in others from outside the community. Andreas Tolk thought the students should be ACM members. Colloquium participant Christina Ruiz Martin contributed that it was hard to find information about student support on the conference web page, and the information she did find didn’t seem up-to-date. David Bell replied that the information online was intended to be general rather than date-specific. Christina Ruiz Martin proposed advertising student support as part of the call for papers, which was well-received. Andreas Tolk suggested a link could be added specifically for student opportunities for each conference. Robert Sargent suggested that SIGSIM consider giving a student membership to all applicants regardless of selection, increasing both SIGSIM visibility and membership.

13. General Discussion and New Business (Loper)

No slides were presented.

Margaret Loper felt there should be more ACM Fellows from the SIGSIM community, noting that Fellows cannot nominate themselves. She suggested that she and Osman Balci take on any work involved with nominating such fellows, Osman since he was familiar with award packages. She pointed out and discussed the Fellows present, and encouraged people to make recommendations to her or Osman.

John Tufarolo asked if SIGSIM could somehow contribute money to the 50th Anniversary of WinterSim, perhaps for a special event, indicating he did not have anything in particular in mind. Robert Sargent indicated that Ernie Page (not present) had some ideas if the notion was welcomed.

Membership was discussed, including general retention and student retention. Andreas Tolk pointed out that while SIGSIM doesn’t need additional funding per se, having a large membership increases the strength and power of the SIG with sponsors, corporations, the other SIGs, and ACM - “we’re small.” It was suggested to perhaps have a sign-up/information booth for a visible presence at relevant conferences - for example, though SIGSIM is a 25% sponsor of WinterSim, where could one sign up to become a member or learn more about SIGSIM [here]? It was also suggested that perhaps for 100% SIGSIM-sponsored conferences, attendees could receive a one-year membership. Richard Fujimoto said this was already in place; this was slated to be verified.

David Bell suggested that perhaps a certain number of “gift” memberships could be given to vendors to give to their technical staff, perhaps encouraging “alternative communities.” John Tufarolo noted that this could decrease WinterSim registration fees, which could adversely affect more than just SIGSIM. It was also suggested that perhaps there could be a lifetime membership option so that members aren’t lost; it was noted that ACM has such an option, but it was unclear whether (just) SIGSIM could have such an option.

Margaret Loper indicated an interest in increasing diversity with SIGSIM. She also discussed educational programs, how SIGSIM might contribute to how to teach modeling and simulation in high
schools, “reaching back,” and workforce development. David Bell mentioned that the United Kingdom has a royal society specifically to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in high school.

With no further business cited, the meeting was motioned to adjourn and seconded at 6:49 p.m.

Minutes taken by Kara Olson
December 29, 2016

28 members and 10 additional participants in attendance
Agenda

1. Welcome, SIGSIM mission, and Agenda (Loper)
2. PhD Colloquium Status incl. SIGSIM Winner (D’Ambrogio)
3. SIGSIM Distinguished Contributions Award (Fujimoto)
4. TOMACS Report (Uhrmacher)
5. JOS Report (Christine/Nav)
6. SIGSIM Website and MSKR (Balci)
7. SIGSIM Social Media Initiatives (Tufarolo)
8. SIGSIM Digest (Fishwick)
9. Budget and Finances (Olson)
10. SIGSIM-PADS conference 2017 (Cai)
11. Simulation Archives (Nance)
12. SIGSIM Student Travel Awards (Bell)
13. General Discussion and New Business (Loper)
WSC’16 PhD Colloquium
(Committee members: A. D’Ambrogio, E. Lada, A. Anagnostou and E. Mazhari)

• Colloquium Format
  – Presentations: 18 final year students will give talks showcasing their work
  – Poster Session for open and interactive discussion
  – Final year students get conference fees reimbursed, 1 year society membership (I-Sim, ACM SIGSIM)

• Keynote:
  – Title: *Discrete-Event Modeling and Simulation Methodologies: Past, Present and Future*
  – Speaker: Dr. Gabriel Wainer (Carleton University, Canada)

• Best Student Paper awards
  – Two $200 awards, sponsored by I-Sim and ACM SIGSIM
  – PhD Colloquium Committee members have reviewed all submissions
  – Final decision made on the day of colloquium, after presentations
WSC’16 PhD Colloquium – Session 1
(Salon J - Sunday 2:15 pm-3:45 pm)

- Simulation Optimization with Sensitivity Information: An Application to Online-retail Inventory Replenishment
  - Annie Chen (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- Supermarket Optimization: Simulation Modeling and Analysis of a Grocery Store Layout
  - Jessica Dorismond (University at Buffalo)
- Simulation Optimization for a Large-scale Bike-sharing System
  - Nanjing Jian (ORIE, Cornell University)
- A Modeling and Simulation Platform for Evaluating Optimization Methods in Container Terminals
  - Mariam Kotachi (Old Dominion University)
- The Role of Comorbidity: A Framework for Personalizing Interventions for Patients with Sepsis
  - Nisha Nataraj (North Carolina State University)
- Modeling and Analyzing the Breakdown Process
  - Shu Pan (University of Southampton)
- Blending Spatial Modeling and Probabilistic Bisection
  - Sergio Rodriguez (University of California, Santa Barbara)
  - Sara Shashaani (Purdue University)
- Input-output Uncertainty Comparisons for Optimization via Simulation
  - Eunhye Song (Northwestern University)
- Outpatient Clinic Layout Design Accounting for Flexible Policies
  - Vahab Vahdatzad (Northeastern University)
A Framework and Language for Complex Adaptive System Modeling and Simulation  
  – Lachlan Birdsey (University of Adelaide)

High Level Architecture (HLA) Compliant Distributed Simulation Platform for Disaster Preparedness and Response in Facility Management  
  – Minji Choi (Seoul National University)

A Ship Block Logistics Support System Based on the Shipyard Simulation Framework  
  – Yong-Kuk Jeong (Seoul National University)

Effective Visual Surveillance of Human Crowds using Cooperative Unmanned Vehicles  
  – Sara Minaeian (University of Arizona)

Betting and Belief: Prediction Markets and Attribution of Climate Change  
  – John J. Nay (Vanderbilt University)

Towards the Validation of a Simulation Environment  
  – Bill Roungas (Delft University of Technology)

A Hybrid Approach to Study Communication in Emergency Plans  
  – Cristina Ruiz-Martín (Carleton University)

A DSL for Continuous-Time Agent-Based Modeling and Simulation  
  – Tom Warnke (Universität Rostock)
WSC’16 PhD Colloquium
ACM SIGSIM Award

Tom Warnke

ACM SIG on Simulation and Modeling

Simulating Complex Service Systems
December 11-14 | Washington, D.C.
Statistics:

- Up to Oktober around 120 papers submitted
- Acceptance rate 17%
- Issues filled until July of 2017
• **TOMACS has a new series called "State of the Art and Open Challenges" (MS:STAROC) in modeling and simulation. First paper:**

  Research Challenges in Parallel and Distributed Simulation

  RICHARD M. FUJIMOTO, Georgia Institute of Technology

• **TOMACS has started a reproducibility initiative** to improve the quality and reproducibility of modeling and simulation research. First paper:

  Automatic Moment-Closure Approximation of Spatially Distributed Collective Adaptive Systems

  CHENG FENG, JANE HILLSTON, and VASHTI GALPIN, University of Edinburgh

Special issues:
• Established Link between PADS-Sigsim and TOMACS, special issue
Journal of Simulation Report
John Fowler, Loo Hay Lee and Simon Taylor

• JOS welcomes submissions:
  – from both researchers and practitioners
  – techniques, tools, methods and technologies of the application and use of discrete-event simulation, agent-based modelling, and systems dynamics
  – manufacturing, service, defence, health care & general commerce

• Journal Statistics
  – Impact factor: 1.164, 5 year: 1.558
  – ~ 29% acceptance rate
  – Average time between submission and first decision is 55 days

• This year is JOS’s 10th anniversary
  – Free virtual issue—Collection of highlight papers from first 10 years
  – Invited papers – Barry Nelson, Charles Macal, Jie Xu, Markus Rabe
  – WSC panel session Simulation: The Past 10 Years and the Next 10 Years – Russell Cheng, Charles Macal, Barry Nelson, Markus Rabe Wednesday 10am, Madison

INFORMS Simulation Society
November 13, 2016
Site Information:

- Blog Type: Picture/Redirect to article
- 241 Posts
- Views: 6,905 (as of Nov 26, 2016)
- Information taken from different M&S query-based feeds
- 59 Regular Email Subscribers
- Occasionally posted on SIGSIM Mailing list (~ 2000 emails). Make this automatic?
- Needs to migrate to one of ACM’s servers
Budget and Finances
ACM SIGSIM
WinterSim 2016

Kara A. Olson
SIGSIM Treasurer/Secretary

Wing Man Ho
SIG Financial Operations Manager
Summary: Fund Balance

Required: ACM requires subunits to maintain reserves against unexpected occurrences 50% of expenses + 40% of conference expenses
Total Financial Operations of SIGSIM

= 

Organization Operations

(Organization Revenue - Organization Expense)

+ 

Conference Operations

(Conference Revenue - Conference Expense)
## Total Financial Operations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expense</th>
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<td>$140,961</td>
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<td>FY 2009 Actual</td>
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<td>FY 2015 Actual</td>
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<td>FY 2016 Actual</td>
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<td>FY 2017 Budget</td>
<td>$238,184</td>
<td>$247,427</td>
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Organization Operations
(Recall: does not include Conference Operations)

FY 2007 Actual: $69,424
FY 2008 Actual: $58,860
FY 2009 Actual: $77,266
FY 2010 Actual: $63,536
FY 2011 Actual: $62,142
FY 2012 Actual: $60,125
FY 2013 Actual: $57,671
FY 2014 Actual: $52,257
FY 2015 Actual: $63,904
FY 2016 Actual: $54,601
FY 2017 Budget: $55,716

Revenue:
- FY 2007: $69,424
- FY 2008: $58,860
- FY 2009: $77,266
- FY 2010: $63,536
- FY 2011: $62,142
- FY 2012: $60,125
- FY 2013: $57,671
- FY 2014: $52,257
- FY 2015: $63,904
- FY 2016: $54,601
- FY 2017: $55,716

Expense:
- FY 2007: $57,285
- FY 2008: $38,430
- FY 2009: $34,407
- FY 2010: $36,743
- FY 2011: $31,207
- FY 2012: $34,440
- FY 2013: $61,155
- FY 2014: $49,833
- FY 2015: $29,536
- FY 2016: $42,187
- FY 2017: $71,393

FY 2013 – new student travel funding
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<td>Interest and All Other Revenue</td>
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<td>$5,458</td>
<td>$5,454</td>
<td>$5,245</td>
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<td>$51,458</td>
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</table>
- Each SIG receives income from the Digital Library based on downloads (minimum $10K)
- Allocation is required by ACM and goes toward overhead; it is determined (same for all SIGs) based on our expenses
- Downloads decreased notably starting in 2010 in part due to new open access of Winter Simulation Conference papers
- Downloads later increased due to pre-print availability of TOMACS and other articles
Winter Simulation Conference (December)
25% sponsor

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>D.C. Actual</th>
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PADS – Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation (May)
100% sponsor since 2013; 33% sponsor prior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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MsWIM – Modeling, Analysis and Simulation of Wireless and Mobile Systems (November)

100% sponsor

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Greece Actual</th>
<th>Canada Actual</th>
<th>Spain Actual</th>
<th>Turkey Actual</th>
<th>Florida Actual</th>
<th>Cyprus Island Actual</th>
<th>Spain Actual</th>
<th>Canada Actual</th>
<th>Mexico Actual</th>
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<td>$4,654</td>
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- **Allocation**
- **Operating Expenses**
- **Revenue**
### DS-RT – Distributed Simulation and Real Time Applications (Sept.)

10% sponsor

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
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Dollars
SIGSIM PADS 2017
Singapore
May 24-26, 2017

General Chairs: Wentong Cai & Yong Meng Teo
Program Chairs: Philip Wilsey & Kevin Jin
PhD Colloquium Chair: Jason Liu
Publicity Chairs: Misbah Mubarak & Wenjie Tang
Proceedings Chair: Elvis Liu
Registration & Local Arrangement Chair: Irene Goh
• Publicity
  – CFP was sent to various mailing lists in Aug, Oct, and Nov (will be sent again one week before the deadline in early Jan’17)
  – Publicized widely in Asia Pacific (simulation mailing lists in China, Japan, and Korea)

• Program Elements
  – PhD Colloquium: May 24, 2017 (Wednesday morning)
  – Main conference: May 24-26, 2017 (starting from Wednesday afternoon)
    • Regular paper deadline: January 8, 2017
    • Regular and short papers
    • Special issue in TOMACS
  – Reception: May 24, 2017
  – Conference Dinner: May 25, 2017
Simulation Archive

- URL: http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/computer-simulation/videos/
- Advisory Committee: R. Nance (C), R. Sargent, J. Wilson
- Simulation Archive Endowment Fund (Balance = $78,420 on October 31, 2016)
  - Sincere thanks to SIGSIM for $5000 donation at WSC 2015.
  - Appreciate past support from SIGSIM, I-Sim, Brunel, individuals
  - SIMULA Panel Session videotaping in July, editing now complete
  - Importance of the significant inclusion of SIMULA
- Collection of Professor Thomas J. Schriber is now accessible via two sources
  - Winter Simulation Conference: http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/findingaids/mc00598
  - Thomas J. Schriber Collection: http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/findingaids/mc00597
- Guidelines for the types and characteristics of material to be archived
- Presentation of Simulation Archive development and vision for the future to be part of the history track at WSC 2017
- Feedback (questions, suggestions, etc.) encouraged by committee members
- Donations are welcomed for the Endowment (tax deductible)
  - greg.raschke@ncsu.edu

SIGSIM Business Meeting
December 13, 2016
Education Committee

Dr David Bell (Chair)

Dr Simon Kent
Dr Sergio De Cesare
Dr Alan Serrano
**WSC and SIGSIM-PADS**  
**SIGSIM Student Travel Support**

**Awards**

To support the professional development of Ph.D. students working in the field of modeling and simulation, SIGSIM offers travel support for up to 15 students to attend the Winter Simulation Conference (10) and ACM SIGSIM PADS (5).

Individual awards of up to $1000 will be made. These awards can be used for travel, lodging, and registration expenses. Awardees will need to submit receipts for reimbursement after attending the conference.

**Dates**

Application materials should be submitted to the SIGSIM Student Travel Awards Committee at least three months prior to the conference start date.

Students will be notified of award decisions within one month.
WSC 2014
SIGSIM Student Travel Support

- WSC 2014, 9 applicants, all supported
  – Mohammad Dehghanimohammadabadi, Western New England University
  – Young Joon Oh, UT Dallas
  – Ashkan Negahban, Auburn University
  – Ketki Kulkarni, Indian Institute of Technology (Bombay)
  – Mingxin Zhang, TU Delft
  – Sojung Kim, University of Arizona
  – Reza Akhavian, University of Central Florida
  – Masoud Fakhimi, University of Surrey
  – Kara Olson, Old Dominion University
PADS 2015 & WSC 2015
SIGSIM Student Travel Support

• PADS 2015, 5 Applicants, All supported
  – Jiaiqi Yan (Illinois Institute of Technology)
  – Karen Doore (University of Texas at Dallas)
  – Shu Pan (University of Southampton)
  – Damian Vicino (Carlton University/Inria)
  – Ning Liu (Illinois Institute of Technology)

• WSC 2015, 5 applicants, All supported
  – Morgan Brown (University of Wisconsin - Madison)
  – Thuy Anh Diro (University of Montreal)
  – Cristina Ruiz (University of Carlton)
  – Masood Fakhimi (University of Surrey)
  – Rahul Mittal (University of Exeter)
PADS 2016 & WSC 2016
SIGSIM Student Travel Support

• PADS 2016, 5 Applicants, All supported
  – Patrick Lange (University Bremen)
  – Jiaiqi Yan (Illinois Institute of Technology)
  – Christopher M. Hannon (Illinois Institute of Technology)
  – Philip Pecher (Georgia Tech)
  – Mahmoud Elbattah (National University of Ireland - Galway)

• WSC 2016, 8 applicants, All supported
  – Rahul Mittal (Exeter University)
  – Sara Minaeian (University Arizona)
  – Bill Roungas (TU Delft)
  – Lachlan Birdsey (University Adelaide)
  – Mariam Kotachi (Old Dominion)
  – Neal, Sabra (Georgia Tech)
  – Vahab VahdatZad (North Eastern)
  – Cristina Ruiz (Carlton)
Recipients since WSC 2014
PADS 2017 & WSC 2017

Improve Publicity to increase applications (Ideas)

- Better links to conference publicity and doctoral colloquium chair
  - *Text produced and used*
- More use of ACM mail list
  - *Prize specific mail for each conference?*
- Links from conference web pages
- Publicise to SIGSIM members list
- …..