

SIGSIM Annual Report

July 2016 – June 2017

Submitted by: Margaret Loper, SIGSIM Chair

The Mission of SIGSIM is to become the world-wide leader in providing professional services on modeling and simulation. SIGSIM actively seeks to meet this objective in a variety of ways, including: sponsorship of both the Winter Simulation Conference (WSC) and the SIGSIM Conference on Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation (SIGSIM PADS).

Awards

- SIGSIM Distinguished Contributions Award was given at the 2016 Winter Simulation Conference to Professor Pierre L'Ecuyer, from the Université de Montréal
- WSC PhD Colloquium Award was given to Tom Warnke, from the University of Rostock for his paper "A DSL for Continuous-Time Agent-Based Modeling and Simulation"
- SIGSIM-PADS PhD Colloquium Award was given to Oliver Reinhardt, from University of Rostock, Germany for his paper "A Domain-Specific Modeling Language for Simulating Linked Lives"
- 8 Travel Awards (up to \$1k in expenses) to PhD students to attend WSC 2016 in Washington, DC (Dec 2016)
- 5 Travel Awards (up to \$1k in expenses) to PhD students to attend the ACM SIGSIM-PADS Conference in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (May 2017)

Significant Papers

- 2017 SIGSIM-PADS Best Paper Award "Efficient Parallel Simulation over Social Contact Network with Skewed Degree Distribution" by Yulin Wu (Nanyang Technological University); Xiangting Hou (Nanyang Technological University); Wenjun Tan (Nanyang Technological University); Wentong Cai (Nanyang Technological University); Zengxiang Li (Agency for Science, Technology and Research)

Significant Programs

- Increased student travel awards for SIGSIM-PADS and WSC conferences
- Continual expansion of MSKR: www.sigsim.org (Balci, Editor in Chief)

Innovative Programs

- SIGSIM Digest started 08/14: www.modelingforeveryone.com (Fishwick, Chair). Current Subscribers: 59 individual + SIGSIM email list, # of posts: 240
- Twitter feed started 02/15, Current Followers: 155
- M&S education material is linked from the MSKR, including access to courseware, videos, and M&S area resources (e.g., books, journals, conferences)

Events or programs that broadened participation either geographically, or among under-represented members of your community

- Held 2017 SIGSIM PADS conference in Singapore

Summary of the key issues that SIG membership will have to deal with in the next 2-3 years

a) Increasing the registration for the annual SIGSIM-PADS conference

Attendance at the conference has been inconsistent ('13 – 66, '14 - 43, '15 – 54, '16 – 65).

There are several solutions to consider: (1) allow “invited papers” from known contributors, or groups that we’d like to involve in SIGSIM who are in other, technically-related, societies (2) more international venues may attract a broader set of attendees (3) advertise the conference outside of the traditional SIGSIM-PADS attendees to gain visibility with new M&S researchers. The goal is to be extremely proactive for the 2017-18 conferences to ensure steady growth in conference attendance.

b) Growing the membership of SIGSIM

Our retention rate is 78.5%, but we consistently lose members each year. It appears that the first-year retention is the hardest for us – we keep at most 50% of new members. Our two-year retention is better at 80+%. We have made a push into social networking, but it doesn’t appear to be attracting new members or an effective retention mechanism. Our social networking chair would like someone that is more familiar with the new social media platforms to take over and grow this activity. As a community, I think we continue to look inward when advertising conferences like SIGSIM-PADS. We may be able to attract new members by reaching out to other SIGs and new M&S communities that are emerging. We have also been traditionally focused on discrete event simulation – we might consider broadening our engagement with other types of M&S researchers.