

SIGSIM Annual Report

July 2017 – June 2018

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 2017 Winter Simulation Conference to Dr. Paul Fishwick from the University of Texas at Dallas
- WSC PhD Colloquium Award was given to María Julia Blas, from INGAR - Institute of Development and Design Argentina for her paper “An Analysis Model to Evaluate Web Applications Quality Using a Discrete-Event Simulation Approach”
- SIGSIM-PADS PhD Colloquium Award was given to Stefano Conoci for the paper “Power and energy efficient Time Warp”
- 10 Travel Awards (up to \$1k in expenses) to PhD students to attend WSC 2017 in Las Vegas, NV (Dec 2017)
- 5 Travel Awards (up to \$1k in expenses) to PhD students to attend the ACM SIGSIM-PADS Conference in Rome, Italy (May 2018)

Significant Papers

- 2018 SIGSIM-PADS Best Paper Award “Fast-Forwarding Agent States to Accelerate Microscopic Traffic Simulations” by Philipp Andelfinger, Yadong Xu, Wentong Cai, David Eckhoff and Alois Knoll

Significant Programs

- SIGSIM-PADS joined the ACM Reproducibility Initiative this year by successfully creating a reproducibility committee to evaluate papers. Lessons learned will be shared with other SIGSIM sponsored conferences.
- Continual expansion of MSKR: www.sigsim.org (Balci, Editor in Chief)

Innovative Programs

- We created an informal committee to help identify SIGSIM members who are qualified to apply for ACM Fellow status. The committee is composed of ACM Fellows, and their purpose is to mentor candidates on the process and requirements. In 2017, we had a SIGSIM member named ACM Fellow – Richard Fujimoto.
- SIGSIM Digest started 08/14: www.modelingforeveryone.com (Fishwick, Chair). Current Subscribers: 63 individuals + SIGSIM email list, # of posts: 308, # of views: 31,525 cumulative (3 years)
- Twitter feed started 02/15, Current Followers: 203, up from 155 last year

- M&S education material is linked from the MSKR, including access to courseware, videos, and M&S area resources (e.g., books, journals, conferences)
- We have a new Digital Media committee that is responsible for Email, Twitter, LinkedIn, and SIGSIM Digest. They will make suggestions on outreach and help grow our visibility.

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

- Held 2018 SIGSIM PADS conference in Rome, Italy
- Will hold 2018 MSWiM conference in Montreal, Canada

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, '17 - 45). 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, and (4) collaborate more with other SIGSIM-sponsored conferences, WSC and MSWiM, to identify opportunities for cross-over activities and advertising. The goal is to be extremely proactive for the 2019-2020 conferences to ensure steady growth in conference attendance.

b) Growing the membership of SIGSIM

Our retention rate is 78%, 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. The new Digital Media committee that includes Email, Twitter, LinkedIn, and SIGSIM Digest – we will need them to help make suggestions and help grow our visibility. 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. The new Digital Media committee may be able to help us grow our visibility.

c) Coordination & Collaboration Across SIGSIM Conferences

Our three major conferences are Winter Simulation Conference (WSC) – 25% sponsor, SIGSIM Conference on Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation (SIGSIM-PADS) – 100% sponsor, and the Modeling, Analysis and Simulation of Wireless and Mobile Systems (MSWiM) Conference – 100% sponsor. There is some sharing across these conferences, but it is mostly done by individuals that attend two or more of the conferences. We need to bring the steering committees together across these conferences to share knowledge about issues such as PhD colloquiums, travel grants, paper awards, reproducibility initiative, etc. Doing this should bring more collaboration across the communities, help us optimize conference planning, and share

lessons that benefit all three conferences. We also need to integrate conference operation and reporting into the executive committee discussions.