March 2018  
Volume 37  
Number One

Dear friends,

Our Society is in the midst of the most important transformative change since its inception in the mid 1980s. We know that, although necessary, this transformation is not easy; it requires a tremendous amount of work, creativity, determination, and resources. Thankfully, the Society is in a good position to transform itself into a more professional and sustainable organization going forward.

As we go through this transition, I would like to ask the officers and members of the Society to continue their dedicated, detailed, and tireless work to ensure the future of the Society and the success of its quest to improve and expand the field of System Dynamics. As part of this purposeful transformation, I would like everyone in the Society to reflect on how best to improve our organization, including specific, appropriate actions. The Society will flourish only with your input, commitment, and effort.

The transition process has amplified the need to clarify, and explicitly define, what type of professional society we want to become. Each one of our members has a say in this decision; you have the opportunity and responsibility to shape the future of our Society and we are counting on your help.

Collectively, we must ponder the benefits and drawbacks of the different types of societies that we can aim to become going forward: from a relatively small, niche-type of society to a large, broad-based, “big tent” type, and many options in between. Each of these choices has different implications in terms of inclusivity, size, values, emphasis, strategy, and day-to-day action. We need to clarify the tradeoffs among the different options and be thoughtful in our choices. Once a decision is made, the Policy Council should (and will) tap into all of its resources—volunteer leaders, members, and Capitol Hill Management Services (CHMS)—to craft a strategy that will best serve our organization going forward.

I know that the membership at large is expecting the Policy Council to provide guidance and leadership in this transition period. I can assure you that all the volunteer leaders of the Policy Council are devoting their best efforts to ensuring the future of the Society and its impact on the field. I would like to recognize the extremely hard work of all our volunteer officers to make this transformation a reality. I believe that the decision to partner with CHMS is already enabling us to accomplish our goals, grow, and flourish in the best possible way.

I have great faith that our members, in collaboration with the volunteer leaders on the Policy Council and the professionals at CHMS and the University at Albany-based Society office, will achieve great results for the Society and the field.

In Memoriam

Long-term Society member Allen Boorstein died on February 12, in New York City. Allen was a past Policy Council Member and has been an enthusiastic member and loyal sponsor of the System Dynamics Society and our conferences since 1998. Allen was instrumental in securing the conference venue in New York City in 2003. He attended most of our conferences and made a point of being present at the PhD Colloquium events held the day before the conference. The Dana Meadows Award, first given in 2001 was generously funded by Jane and Allen Boorstein until 2004 when, on Allen’s urging, we created an endowment fund. Thanks to a successful fund drive, promoted and contributed to by Allen and his wife, Jane, the Dana Meadows Award will be given in perpetuity. He will be missed.

The System Dynamics Newsletter is published three times a year by the System Dynamics Society.

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Chapter & SIG News

❖ In October 2017, members of the Australasian Chapter met at the University of Queensland to discuss current activities and preparations for the 3rd Asia-Pacific System Dynamics Conference. PhD students from the Australasian Chapter met at Griffith University in November 2017 to discuss their projects. Australasian Chapter members will meet again at Griffith University in March 2018. In December, members of the Australasian Chapter attended the MODSIM (Modelling and Simulation) 2017 Conference in Hobart. There they ran the session titled “Integrated Participatory Systems Approaches for Modelling Socio-Ecological Systems.” Oz Sahin (Griffith University), Sondoss El Sawah (University of New South Wales), and Russell Richards (University of Queensland) chaired the session. The next MODSIM Conference (2019) will be held in Canberra; Sondoss will be the conference convenor. In September 2017, the University of New South Wales hosted a Systems Modelling Conference. The presentations given at the conference are available at https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/conferences/. See a video of the presentations at https://youtu.be/xb4-ikFx-tI. The next conference is September 27, 2018.

Congratulations to Shayne Gary, University of New South Wales Business School, on his promotion to Professor in January 2018. Congratulations to Tiru Arthanari, University of Auckland Business School, who received a research excellence award from her school. Tiru was a co-author (along with: Foad Marzoughi, Tiru Arthanari and Davood Askarany) on the recent (2018) publication “A decision support framework for estimating project duration under the impact of weather,” in the journal Automation in Construction. Congratulations to Scott Agnew, University of Queensland School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, who was awarded his PhD in December 2017. His thesis was titled “Understanding residential solar and battery adoption dynamics: a systems thinking approach.” Based on his thesis, Scott (along with Carl Smith and Paul Dargusch) recently published the paper “Causal loop modelling of residential solar and battery adoption dynamics: a case study of Queensland, Australia,” in the Journal of Cleaner Production.

❖ The China Chapter conducted its 2017 System Dynamics Annual Academic Conference at QingDao University on January 6, 2018. Nearly seventy attendees from thirty Chinese universities attended this conference. Nearly twenty scholars, including Prof. Jia Renan, Prof. Tu Guoping from Nanchang University, Prof. Zhong Yongguang from Qingdao University, and Prof. Li from Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, shared their research at the conference. The research topics covered the System Dynamics method and its application to business, ecology, and food safety management. A training course for SD and Vensim software was conducted in December 2018. Fourteen people, including master and PhD students, and researchers, attended the training.

❖ The Italian Chapter has announced the launch of a special issue of the Journal of Simulation. Guest editors include: Dr. Stefano Armenia, Link Campus University, Roma, Italy (armenias@mac.com), Prof. Federico Barnabé, University of Siena, Siena, Italy (federico.barnabe@unisi.it), and Prof. Davide Secchi, University of Southern Denmark, Slagelse, Denmark (secchi@sdu.dk). This special issue, promoted by the Italian Chapter of the System Dynamics Society, will address the general subject of “Model-based Governance in a Sustainable World,” specifically aiming at establishing whether, and under which conditions, computer models and simulations may provide the capability of making correct choices, hence effectively and accurately dealing with complexity in policy-making and strategy development and implementation.

The impacts generated by policy/strategy implementations have historically been very difficult to anticipate, due to the many complex and interconnected phenomena. Among them, factors such as dynamic complexity, causal ambiguity and path dependency may severely hamper the ability of decision-makers to design and implement effective strategies and policies aimed at obtaining organizational resilience and hence sustainable results. The general notion of ‘sustainability’ has been associated with environment, society, and politics. Therefore, we aim at selecting a series of papers under the perspective of the deep structural relationships that underpins the dynamics of sustainability in different areas. In this context, different paradigms, techniques and approaches to computer modelling and simulation may play a relevant role, spanning from System Dynamics and systems thinking, to agent-based modelling (ABM), discrete event simulations, etc. Among them, System Dynamics and ABM have demonstrated their validity for decades, supplying models and tools particularly well-suited in providing the basis for strategy development and implementation, and for meaningful learning experiences about the relationships between the structure and the dynamics of complex systems. The special issue is open to practical contributions as well as theoretical papers. Papers reporting and presenting methodological and technological advances related to the application of simulation modelling-related theory and/or practice will be particularly welcome. More details and the full Call for Papers are available at: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tjsm20/current. The paper submission deadline is October 30, 2018.
Dr. Benjamin C.K. Chung, president of the Korean Chapter, was invited to Cambodia to talk about System Dynamics/systems thinking, especially K-12 System Dynamics (SD) education. This was an introduction of K-12 SD education to Cambodia. Dr. Chung gave a systems thinking (ST) workshop to high school students from Salt and Light International School on January 31 and to professors and graduate students at Pannasastra University (including Dr. Trond Gilberg, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and International Relations and Mr. Som Mony, Assistant Dean for Faculty of Education) on February 1. This workshop event was led by two visionaries. Dr. Chung wants to spread SD/ST over developing countries and Prof. Veasna Kum at Pannasastra University (who is a system dynamicist) intends to disseminate K-12 ST education into Cambodia. Prof. Kum read Dr. Chung’s paper from the proceedings of the 2017 Cambridge ISDC titled, “Case Study of K-12 SD program in South Korea applied by World Climate Focused on Environment Subject,” and then contacted Dr. Chung in November. After that they planned the workshop. These two system dynamicists are trying to find the opportunity to leverage this event for further development.

The Russian Chapter of the System Dynamics Society runs co-operative programs, seminars, workshops, and master degree programs on simulation modeling and System Dynamics. Several universities in Russia host these educational programs, including the Faculty of Business and Management at the National Research University Higher School of Economics. The annual meeting of Chapter’s members was held at the National Research University Higher School of Economics and gathered system dynamicists from Moscow State University, Bauman Moscow State Technical University, and others. Professor Oleg Pavlov, PhD, of Worcester Polytechnic University (USA), gave a lecture-workshop on “The design of project-based learning” at the National Research University Higher School of Economics on March 21, 2017.

In April 2017, the annual International Scientific Conference, Modernization of the Economy and Society, included a section entitled “Instrumental methods in the analysis of social and economic processes.” The session was devoted to application of simulation modeling in social and economic systems. Every other year, the National Simulation Modeling Society organizes the theoretical and practical conference IMMOD Simulation Modeling: Theory and Practice. This conference provides comprehensive analysis of the current state and development perspectives of the simulation modeling theory and simulation tools in various business industries and administrative governance. There is a section on SD and simulation modeling of socio-economic systems, conducted by the Chairman of Russian Chapter, Natalia Lychkina, where Russian Chapter members regularly present their reports. In October 2017, at the IMMOD Conference in St.Petersburg, Russian Chapter members N.N. Lychkina and Y.I. Toluev gave presentations. The AnyLogic Company presented their tool for supply chain simulation modeling: anyLogistix and AnyLogic Cloud, a web service for running models online. Later in the year, December 2017, Yuri Toluev held a lecture-workshop on Supply Chain Simulation Modeling at the National Research University Higher School of Economics.

The Russian Chapter of the System Dynamics Society, in co-operation with The AnyLogic Company, regularly conducts seminars and training courses for professionals on simulating

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the modeling of economic processes. A recent training course for professionals on simulation modeling in AnyLogic took place at the National Research University Higher School of Economics on March 28-30, 2017. The course was attended by teachers from Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Southern Federal University, Cherepovets State University, as well as representatives of business from Sberbank and United Rocket Space Corporation.

The South Africa Chapter held its 5th Annual System Dynamics Conference on November 27-28, 2017, hosted by Eskom SOC in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch, the University of Pretoria, and the Wits Transnet Centre of Systems Engineering. It was organized by conference co-chairs Paul Currie and Mapule Ntsoane with support from the South Africa System Dynamics (SASD) Chapter 2017 Policy Council. The conference theme was “Sustainability and Innovation in Socio-Technical Systems” and it was attended by thirty-eight participants from across South Africa and Africa. Ms. Sumaya Nassiep, Acting General Manager at Eskom Research Testing & Development welcomed attendees while Nalini Sooknanan Pillay, the President of the SASD Chapter, officially launched the conference. The conference keynote address was delivered by Dr. Andrea M. Bassi, Founder and CEO of KnowlEdge Srl. His keynote address focused on modelling socio-technical systems to achieve the sustainable development goals as markets evolve and increase in complexity. Dr. Bassi shared some of the interesting infrastructure development case studies, undertaken in collaboration with the government department and in consultation with citizens, which integrated spatial mapping with System Dynamics. A key insight was to learn how system dynamicists are not only just ‘modellers’, but are also contributing to policy making process. Twenty-one papers were presented at the conference, with topics that ranged from modelling an integrated green economy and residential solar PV to battery electric vehicles and eHealth.

- The Business SIG is pleased to announce that Ken Cooper will join Seth Cordes and Raafat Zaini for the next episode in their webinar series. Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 12:00 to 1:00 PM EST. Ken will discuss findings from their HIV clinical trial and the applicability of System Dynamics to disease research in general. Additional details to follow in March.

- The Transportation SIG of the System Dynamics Society will be hosting a free full-day workshop to showcase the range of research and practice being carried out in transport studies and planning using System Dynamics as a modelling method. The workshop was designed to: promote the role of System Dynamics in transportation; facilitate communication and collaboration in transportation and SD; and share works in progress, best practice case studies and state-of-the-art use of SD in transportation research and planning. An informal pre-workshop dinner will be held on Thursday, March 22. The workshop will take place at BOKU, University of Natural Resources and Life Science Vienna, in Austria. The deadline for registration is March 16. Please register at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/system-dynamics-in-transportation-modelling-tickets-41451260837. For additional information, please visit the website of the Transportation SIG at https://www.systemdynamics.org/transportation.

2017 CONFERENCE VIDEOS

At the 2017 Cambridge, Massachusetts Conference, sponsor UnCommon Catalyst along with the BSIG recorded various sessions. The first video has recently been posted. To see the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Professor Ali Mashayekhi, please visit https://youtu.be/nSfpNW48_QQ. Other recorded sessions are being edited and will be available on the Society’s YouTube channel as the year progresses.
This year’s International Conference of the System Dynamics Society is August 6-10, and will take us to Reykjavík, Iceland, home of volcanos, hot springs, and the University of Iceland which will be hosting the event. Submissions are now open on the Society website (but closing on March 28, so don’t delay if you have work you want to share). This year we are broadening the submission formats to make it easier for practitioners and those in earlier stages of development to show and discuss what they are doing.

The conference will include plenary, parallel, poster, and discussion sessions organized around submitted material, but that is really just the start. New session formats designed to increase communication among people doing work in different areas should make the entire conference a learning experience for everyone.

This year we will be opening the Wednesday morning plenary to the public. “Understanding Systems and Taking Action: Why is it so hard to save the planet?” will feature presentations by Jørgen Randers and Peter Senge. There will also be a newcomer orientation for those joining for the first time, a modeling assistance workshop for those wanting to discuss modeling issues with experienced people, a publishing assistance workshop, and a full day of workshops for those wishing to build skills and extend knowledge into new areas.

We will again be holding a summer school before the conference starts. This is a fantastic way to quickly build up skills for those newer to the field. For students, and those who like to see the work of students, the PhD Colloquium will be held on Monday, August 6. Thursday is Education Day, with a focus on both how and what people learn using System Dynamics and the value of using System Dynamics in teaching—from primary school through retirement.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Building and Sharing Understanding,” and as is clear from the activities, the conference will be an opportunity to learn more about what others are doing and about learning itself. All in all it promises to be a great experience and we hope to see you there.

Program Chairs: Robert Eberlein, isee systems; Allyson Beall King, Washington State University; Jürgen Strohhecker, Frankfurt School of Finance & Management

Workshop Chairs: Jack B. Homer, Homer Consulting; Hazhir Rahmandad, MIT Sloan

Organizing Chairs: Anna Hulda Ólafsdóttir, University of Iceland; Harald Sverdrup, University of Iceland; Erik Pruyt, Delft University of Technology

Conference Manager: Roberta L. Spencer, System Dynamics Society

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REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
REGISTER BY JULY 9 FOR REDUCED RATES
As the governing body of the System Dynamics Society, the Policy Council meets twice a year. The winter meeting of the Policy Council comprises three sessions. The first session of the 2018 winter meeting opened with electronic communications in early 2018. The second session was a face-to-face meeting at Capitol Hill Management Services in Albany, New York on February 15, 2018, to discuss administrative and open policy issues as well as to develop and propose motions. The third session, spanning approximately five weeks after the face-to-face meeting, is an online discussion and includes voting on proposed motions. The meeting included reports by officers and committees, conference reports, and existing and new business. Some of the motions being considered for this meeting include the proposed timeline for the Executive Director search, recommendations for Roberta Spencer’s ongoing work with the Society, recommendations for Legacy Fund management, Dana Meadows donation/MOU amendments, approval of Chairs of Standing Committees, the motion to acknowledge the updated constitution of the ASEAN Chapter, and the slate of candidates to take office in 2019.

The open positions for the 2019 Policy Council are:

- President Elect (2018)
- Secretary (2019-2020)
- Vice President of Marketing and Communications (2019-2021)
- Vice President of Meetings (2019-2021)
- Vice President of Professional Practice (2019-2021)
- Policy Council Members (2019-2021) [There are four openings.]

By the end of March, the Nominating Committee will submit a single nomination for each position to be filled in the pending election. However, members may submit other nominations for these offices and positions, provided that: (1) each such nomination is accompanied by a petition signed by twenty-five members in good standing; (2) each nominee is a member in good standing; (3) written evidence is submitted to the effect that each nominee has agreed to stand for election; and (4) such nominations reach the Secretary within five weeks after publication of nominations received from the Nominating Committee. If no nominations are received by the Policy Council from the membership at large, the slate of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee, and approved by the Council, will be deemed elected. For more information on nominations and elections go to the Governance page on the Society’s website, then go to “Policies.”

Submitted by Brad Morrison, Secretary

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**SPRING SALE!**

The Society office will be relocating to a new site in August of this year, so we are having a moving sale to reduce our inventory of books. Visit [https://systemdynamics.org/2018sale](https://systemdynamics.org/2018sale) to view available items and sale prices. The sale is open to members only until March 31, 2018. The sale is open to the public from April 1st to May 1st. Once our supply of sale items is depleted, they will no longer be available. Please contact us as soon as possible.

Due to a surplus of stock, a deep discount of 50% will be offered on these titles:
- Collected Papers of Jay W. Forrester, 1975
- Feedback Thought in Social Science and Systems Theory, 1999
- The Electronic Oracle, 1985

All other books on our website will be 10% off.

Other items:
- Proceedings (1999-2014)
- Forrester Seminar Series, both NTSC & PAL versions
- Fireside Chat
- *System Dynamics Review*, Vol. 1-32 (For members only)
- MIT Literature Collection
- Past conference satchels