



Student Chapter
of the System Dynamics Society

Snowball No 5, October 2007
Newsletter of the Student Chapter

Dear Members of the Student Chapter of the System Dynamics Society,

The Student Chapter Council would firstly like to say thank you for all those involved in running the Chapter last year and for a successful PhD Colloquium (see point 1). We hope we can continue in your footsteps. For this to happen we need input. We need input from the council, but more importantly we need input from the members (see point 4). We would the quarterly Snowball to highlight the work of our members and highlight completed research, ongoing research and ways in which we can improve the chapter, so please send your comments to us and I can promise that we will reply! The new council was assembled at the Council meeting (see point 2) and you can meet the members in this newsletter (see point 3).

Lastly, for those who didn't make it to the conference there has been a summary included which pays particular attention to a speech by John Sterman at the Colloquium.

Hope to hear from you all soon,

The Policy Council of the Student Chapter

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1. 8th PhD Colloquium, Boston, 2007

Once again, we had a hugely successful colloquium with a strong turnout and high quality presentations.

After a brief introduction by Professor John Sterman gave an amusing and informative presentation, which will be talked about in the next Snowball and is of use for all those hoping to attend next year's event. This was followed by a total of 6 presentations, 2 workshops, 1 discussion session and 8 poster presentations! Subjects covered included health, the environment, public policy and many more. For a full program list please visit www.systemdynamics.org/chapters/student and follow the links.

The colloquium isn't solely about work and we like to emphasize the usefulness of the networking and socializing that happens on this day, each year, by first inviting all students to join in with the Student Chapter Meeting and by having an informal gathering. Each year the colloquium goes from strength-to-strength and we hope that you will join us in Athens for the 9th PhD Colloquium.

2. Student Chapter Policy Meeting, PhD Colloquium, Boston, 2007

During the 2007 SD Conference, 16 students got together to address past and future issues of the Student Chapter and to elect a new policy council. The following issues were discussed:

- The last year's policy council made valuable changes, they introduced this newsletter and the list server, launched a new website and, as you may have noticed, they changed the format of the PhD Colloquium. We decided to continue this in this year as well.
- There was agreement that we would like to engage more students in the chapter. One way to achieve this is to build up a stronger relationship to the local chapters. If you would like to help us doing this, feel free help us.
- Participants also agreed that it would be valuable to have some budget for the PhD Colloquium. Although it seems difficult to get funding, we will work hard on it.

The 8th PhD Colloquium was organized by Chintan Vaishan and Stefan Grösser.

3. Introductions – The New Policy Council

President – Michael Quigley

Hello all, I am a PhD student and research assistant looking into higher educated human resources in the UK and I also the competitiveness of the UK construction industry. I have been a society member for 3 years and study at the University Of Salford, England.

Chapter Representative/Colloquium Organiser – Nicole Zimmermann

Hi, I am a PhD student at Mannheim University in Germany, and I am currently also a visiting student at SUNY Albany. My project focuses on organizational change, since I found this to be a real-life issue in organizations. Together with Cécile, I will organize next year's PhD colloquium. Besides that, I love to dance and to do Capoeira.

Colloquium Co-Organizer – Cecile Emery

I am pursuing my PhD at the University of Lugano, Switzerland. My project involves using SD to understand the processes that regulate the dynamic of concentration and specialization in industries and organizational populations. My role in the Student Chapter is to co-organise the next PhD Colloquium in Greece. During my free time, I enjoy practicing mountain-climbing and kick-boxing.

Vice-President/Webadmin – Ines Winz

I am a PhD student at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. My project focuses on the implementation of better stormwater management in urban areas. I developed the web page for the chapter and decided to stay onboard for another year to provide institutional memory. I have a daughter who is 9 months old and keeps me busy and happy.

Secretary/List Manager – Matthias Müller

I am a PhD Student of Prof.Dr. Schwaninger at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland) and Prof.Dr. Kaufmann-Hayoz at the University of Berne (Switzerland). I work as a teaching assistant at the Interdisciplinary Centre for General Ecology (U of Berne) and as research assistant for the project "Diffusion dynamics of energy-efficient Renovations". I see my contribution to the SD Student chapter to find a way to make the list server a valuable resource for students.

4. Our (Your?) Plans for the Year

After a hugely successful year rolling out new tools (notably the website, newsletter and list server) the Student Chapter Council has decided to concentrate this year on increasing the number of students in the Chapter and also the participation of its members. This year the Chapter will actively be seeking to communicate with other Chapters and SIGs in order to share experiences and make sure that there is a continued presence of the Chapter.

The main reason the Chapter has taken this direction is because of the huge amount of unknown, high-quality student work out there. Each year we see great presentations at the colloquium and rather than have one day a year to celebrate this work we would like to highlight this fact in the newsletter. Please, contact any member of the council about any research you know of that has recently finished or you would like the Chapter to know about.

5. Let's Throw Some Balls!

Just in case you haven't noticed: with this newsletter we are throwing snowballs to all System Dynamics students out there. Throw some back!

The Policy Council of the Student Chapter