

July 18, 2016 Outstanding Service Award for Yaman Barlas

The System Dynamics Society Outstanding Service Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the Society. The award was inspired by Julie Pugh's volunteer work as our first Executive Director. Following her example, lifetime service awards were given to Jack Pugh in 1997 and Bob Eberlein in 2005.

The Outstanding Service award was formally established in 2009 and used to recognize Andy Ford, Peter Milling, David Andersen, George Richardson, Jac Vennix, and Pål Davidsen, all of whom performed service beyond the normal call of duty from their positions in the academic world. The 2015 award recognized Dean Christensen for his years of service as the Society's informal photographer. We all benefited from his photos and his encouraging words – they added to our sense of community.

Many individuals continue the tradition of extraordinary efforts that strengthen our community. We use this year's award to recognize one individual whose volunteerism started early, when, as a new, associate professor, he volunteered to host the Society's annual conference. Everyone who has organized a conference knows the extra burden on themselves, their colleagues and their student volunteers. The challenges were even greater back in the years prior to the conference support from Roberta and her team at the Home Office.

It is my privilege to announce that the 2016 award recognizes the young professor who brought the Society to Istanbul for the 1997 Conference. Yaman Barlas made his way through the attempted coup in Turkey to join us today, catching one of the few randomly available flights out of the Istanbul airport. Thank you for being here with us.

Yaman Barlas is Professor of Industrial Engineering at Bogaziçi University in Istanbul. His university has honored him with the Teaching Excellence Award in 2006, then again in 2008, again in 2009, and yet again in 2010.

His teaching inspires students to engage in System Dynamics study and research, and their progress benefits the entire System Dynamics community. Four of his students continue the teaching of System Dynamics at his home university. Others have come to the USA where their teaching and research is performed at some of our most prestigious universities, including MIT, Yale, Columbia, and Stanford.

Yaman has served actively on our Policy Council for many years. Those of us who served with him recall him as a tireless advocate for creating access to our field for students and practitioners from around the world.

Professor Barlas has certainly earned the right to relax, sit back and share stories with his students who are spreading the word on System Dynamics. But like many who make life long contributions, Yaman is actively engaged to this day. Yaman seems to recall his own words from his Presidential address from 1998 stressing the importance of the *System Dynamics Review* for our field. Just this year, he agreed to serve as Executive Editor of the *System Dynamics Review*. This is one of the most important and demanding jobs in the Society; we admire Yaman's enthusiasm for taking on this new assignment.

Yaman, we thank you for all that you have done. And we look forward to all that you plan to do.

Outstanding Service Award Committee

David Andersen (Chair) 2013-2017, Andrew Ford 2012-2016, Peter Milling 2014-2018, Roberta Spencer 2015-2019, Robert Eberlein 2016-2020