

President's Letter

To the Members,

Operations of the System Dynamics Society are going well. The *System Dynamics Review* will publish an exciting double issue on chaos; the new database is in place; arrangements for the international conferences in California and Germany are well under way; geographical chapters of the Society are being organized and member renewals are high.

Later this year the Society will distribute a membership directory to all active members. If enough additional support can be obtained, the Society will commission a bibliography of published work in system dynamics.

A "Notes of Interest" flyer will accompany future issues of the *President's Letter* if interest warrants. The flyer will carry news items of general interest to Society members.

- Nathan B. Forrester, President

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Nominees for Society Offices:

The nominating committee of the Society, headed by the Past President Dennis Meadows, has completed its work. The slate of nominees has been approved by the Policy Council. The nominees are:

President Elect (1): Peter C. Gardiner
Vice President for Meetings (1): Erich O. Zahn
Vice President at Large (1): John D. Sterman
Policy Council (4):
Peter M. Milling
Antonio S. Camara
Erling Moxnes
Erik Mosekilde

The nominees will automatically assume office January 1, 1989 unless additional nominations are submitted by the membership. If additional nominations are made, a vote will be conducted by mail for all contested offices. If you would like to make additional nominations, see the next item.

Additional Nominations from the Membership:

Members are encouraged to submit additional nominations for the offices listed above if they so desire. Any nominee must be a member in good standing of the Society. Nominations must be made in writing by a member of the Society and must be supported by the signatures of 9 (nine) additional members in good standing. The total of ten member signatures may accompany the nomination letter or the signatures may arrive in separate letters of support. In any event, the nomination and at least ten valid signatures must be received at the principal office of the Society no later than August 31, 1988.

The Society's Computer Database:

The new computer database I developed for the Society is now in place. Julie Pugh, the Executive Director, is using it to maintain the financial, membership, and subscription records of the Society. Most of the bugs have been worked out and the information has been updated. Some of the names and addresses may still be out of date. If you are aware of problems, please let Julie know.

International Conferences

The 1988 International Conference of the System Dynamics Society is being held in La Jolla, California, USA from July 5 through July 8, 1988.

Jack Homer is the organizer. If you are not able to attend, you will be able to order a copy of the proceedings from the Principal Office in the fall of 1988.

The 1989 International Conference of the System Dynamics Society will be held in Stuttgart, Federal Republic of Germany between July 11-14, 1989. The organizers, Peter Milling and Erich Zahn have already sent out the call for papers. The deadline for abstracts is August 1, 1988. Addresses:

Prof. Peter Milling
Osnabruck University
Postfach 4469
D-4500 Osnabruck
Fed. Rep. Germany

Prof. Erich Zahn
Stuttgart University
Betriebswirtschaftliches Institute
Keplerstr. 17,7 Stock
D-7000 Stuttgart 1
Fed. Rep. Germany

The System Dynamics Review

The editors of the *System Dynamics Review* have decided to expand the special issue on mathematical chaos into a double issue (Volume 4, Numbers 1 & 2). The issue, edited by Erik Mosekilde, Javier Aracil, and Peter Allen includes introductory articles on the basic concepts of chaotic dynamics, notes on simple models and teaching exercises as well as reports on work at the frontier of research into complex dynamics in nonlinear systems.

The double issue on chaos will be more than twice as large as previous issues of the *Review* and will be the only one mailed in 1988. The regular pattern of two issues per year will resume with Volume 5, Number 1 in the winter of 1989.

If you know people outside the System Dynamics Society who would be interested in the special issue on chaos, please jot down their names and addresses and send them to the Principal Office.

Sponsors and Affiliates

Sponsors and affiliates are very important to the work of the System Dynamics Society. Contributions by sponsors make an important difference to the quality of the *Review* and improvements in member services. For example, if adequate support can be obtained, the Society will assemble and maintain a bibliography of work in system dynamics and related fields. Sponsors contribute \$1000 or more and affiliates contribute \$500-1000 per year to the work of the Society. Sponsors and affiliates are recognized in the *System Dynamics Review* and other appropriate places. Consider becoming a sponsor yourself, or encouraging your organization, your clients or other

individuals to become sponsors. If you need assistance, please call or write me and one of the officers will help you work with potential sponsors.

Chapters and Colleges of the Society

Several members have begun organizing chapters of the Society. Chapters are regional subgroups of the Society based on geographic divisions. Colleges are non-geographic interest groups. The rules governing chapter and college subdivisions are relatively simple:

- A subdivision shall have a nonprofit purpose substantially similar to that of the Society: Furthering research, teaching or application of the principles of feedback systems to human endeavor.
- A subdivision shall have at least ten members.
- All members of a subdivision shall be members of the System Dynamics Society.
- Membership in a subdivision shall be open to all members of the Society.
- Subdivisions are administratively separate from the Society and may not obligate the Society legally or financially.
- The name of the Society and subdivisions may not be associated with any commercial product or service.
- Subdivisions must be officially recognized by the Policy Council.

If you would like to organize a chapter or college, please contact me directly.

Institutional Subscriptions

Please make certain that your organization or library is an institutional subscriber to the *Review*. If not, request a subscription now.

New "Notes of Interest" Bulletin

A "Notes of Interest" flyer will accompany future issues of the *President's Letter*. The flyer will include brief (100 words or less) announcements of conferences, new books, software updates, employment opportunities and news items. Send announcements to me for inclusion in the next issue.

1989 Jay W. Forrester Award

The Jay W. Forrester award is given each year for the best work in system dynamics published during the last five years. Please send nominations for the 1989 award to the principal office. Nominations should clearly identify the work, describe its contribution to the field and include a review copy.

The System Dynamics Society

Officers, Policy Council, Administrators - 1988

(Dates in parentheses indicate expiration of term)

President: Nathan B. Forrester
President Elect: Eric F. Wolstenholme
Past President: Dennis L. Meadows
Secretary: Robert L. Eberlein (12/90)

Vice Presidents:

Publications: David F. Andersen (12/90)
Finance: Alexander L. Pugh (12/89)
Membership: Roelant R. O. Beijdorff (12/89)
Meetings: Hermann Krallmann (12/88)
At Large: Erik Mosekilde (12/88)

Policy Council:

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 Toshiro Shimada (12/90)
 Michael J. Radzicki (12/90)
 Javier Aracil (12/89)
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 Andrew Ford (12/89)
 Nancy H. Roberts (12/89)
 John D. Sterman (12/88)
 Petter Gottschalk (12/88)
 Qifan Wang (12/88)
 Erich O. K. Zahn (12/88)

Executive Director: Julia S. Pugh

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President:
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Dr. Nathan B. Forrester
 79 East Bare Hill Road
 Harvard, MA 01451 USA

 Detatch Here

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Return to: System Dynamics Society, E40-294, MIT, Cambridge, MA, 02139 USA (617) 253-1549