

NEWS

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Greetings System Dynamics friends and colleagues and soon-to-be friends and colleagues. It is my honor to be writing to you from the Land of Enchantment as President of the System Dynamics Society. My first task is to say that we owe a great debt of gratitude to all those who serve the Society in many different roles. Particular thanks goes to Étienne Rouwette, now Past President, who served with grace and leadership. I would also like to thank the previous Society Presidents from whom I learned a great deal about this role, the Society, and System Dynamics: David Lane, Kim Warren, David Ford, Edward Anderson, and Jürgen Strohhecker.

Every year the Society governance volunteers come and go. In particular, I would like to thank Jim Duggan, Warren Farr, Elke Husemann, and David Wheat who have completed

their Policy Council service and we welcome John Pastor Ansah, Nancy Hayden, Florian Kapmeier, and Nuno Videira to the Policy Council this year.

Society and member activities are fully revealed via our web and social media presence. In fact, there is so much news and activity that I have to check the Society website, LinkedIn, and Facebook nearly every day! This is all thanks to the effort of many researchers, contributors, and dedicated Society Home Office staff. Please support accomplishments, publications, and events; please comment on Society news and share as you see fit.

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the field of System Dynamics. Sadly, our founder, friend, and mentor, Jay W. Forrester left us late in 2016. Many of you have commented on Jay's role in changing your career path

From the President *Leonard Malczynski*



and the way you look at the world. My most vivid personal memory is his recommendations to "keep practicing" and "be courageous." The System Dynamics Society is an international, nonprofit organization devoted to encouraging the development and use of System Dynamics and systems thinking around the world. Thank you Jay for putting us on this path.

We have many opportunities to encourage this development and use, and so system dynamicists around the world are teaching, meeting, and spreading the word. Already this year, a successful 2nd Asia-Pacific Region System Dynamics Conference was held in Singapore. Since last year there have been other conferences in the United Kingdom, Italy, and Brazil. More regional conferences are in the planning stages.

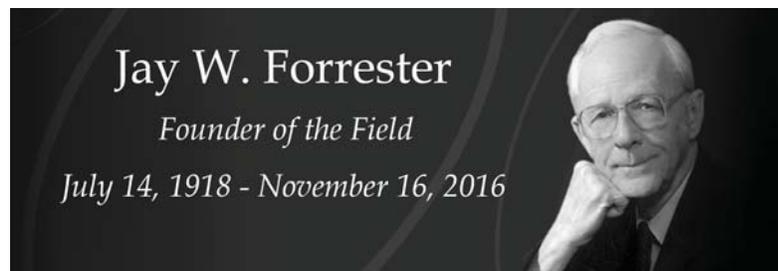
One of my priorities this year is to increase the quality of System Dynamics work presented at our conferences. One of the ways to do this is to support students by giving them access to great work and great advice. Please consider supporting our Student Chapter and their activities including the annual PhD Colloquium at our annual conference.

Speaking of conferences, I hope to see all of you in Cambridge, Massachusetts, July 16-20, and for the pre-conference Summer School from July 11-14, 2017.

In Memoriam

It was with great sadness that the System Dynamics Society announced that Jay W. Forrester, Professor of Management Emeritus at MIT, died at the age of 98 on November 16, 2016. A

webpage dedicated to his memory was established on the Society's website. Visit Jay's page to read the kind and thoughtful words illustrating the consummate importance Jay has had in the field of System Dynamics and the mark he has left on the lives of so many. Jay's legacy will continue into the future as we move forward to promote the field of System Dynamics—this is a collective common thread expressed in the messages and it is an important mission of the Society.



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Chapter & SIG News

❖ The newborn **Agriculture & Food (A&F) SIG** is celebrating its first six months of activity after the kick-off meeting during the ISDC 2016. The A&F SIG has experimented with a variety of methods to enhance the outcomes of the initial group actions and is planning more activities for the rest of the year. Initial activities have been organized to create a multi-pronged platform of A&F SIG to promote events and opportunities for members' aggregation and engagement. A dedicated website [<http://www.agriculture-and-food.com/>] is in development for membership registration and for effective A&F member communication, recognition, and outreach. The A&F SIG also shares information using Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Mailchimp and Skype. In the past six months, online meetings have been organized (one per month), offering A&F members the opportunity to present their models and share and discuss them with the A&F community. Presented System Dynamics models covered different areas such as ecohydrology, land and water management, small household farming, animal disease policies, and water resource management. In February 2017, with the help of the Society, the SIG started recording meetings with the goal of hosting a dedicated YouTube channel for future sharing. A specified list of future targets has been made to enhance the A&F feedback loop promoting systemic networking of the SIG members. The schedule of online presentations for 2017 is in development and the A&F SIG is open to both current members and newcomers for collaboration on model building, sharing, and discussion. Volunteers are welcome to help the A&F community grow with new ideas and participation. Consider joining the A&F SIG!

❖ The **Information Science and Information Systems SIG (iSIG)** is still undergoing an internal reorganization especially regarding communication and relationship with its associates, but is already thinking ahead to address the digital transformations in the world and in the decision sciences. We are in fact planning to hold an event, joining the worlds that pertain to data-driven decision sciences, organizational theory, and model-based decision sciences. The date of such an international event, where academia will meet industry and professionals/practitioners, is still to be defined, but it will be most likely held in 2018.

In the meantime, some preliminary activities and initiatives are being implemented in this particular context. At the beginning of January 2017, an abstract was presented at the BSLab-SYDIC International Workshop, held in Rome, to stimulate a wide discussion around a conceptual framework for a new holistic, integrated and systemic category of Decision Support Systems (DSS), named Smart Model-based Governance (SMbG). The SMbG tries to address how data-driven and model-driven approaches could be combined to foster future policy making. Abstract: bslab-symposium.net/BSLab-Sydic-2017/Book-Abstracts-BSLab-Sydic-2017-final.pdf (pp. 44-53)

Moreover, iSIG members and the wider System Dynamics community might want to know that there is a journal, *Kybernetes*, from Emerald-Insight, which is willing to publish research works on this topic in the near future. If you are planning any publication of a paper joining model-based decision-sciences with data-driven decision making, *Kybernetes* might be the right place for you and your co-authors. Stay tuned on the iSIG page on the Society's website, for more information on topics of interest as well as initiatives to come and suggest to us your areas of interest related to this SIG.

❖ The **Italian Chapter** has been quite active during 2016. Among the most notable goals and relevant activities, the SYDIC, System Dynamics Italian Chapter, has:

- achieved an important partnership to translate into Italian the seminal book from Donella Meadows *Thinking in Systems* (translation carried out by Chapter members). This will be a great opportunity to disseminate a lot more in Italy about systems thinking and System Dynamics. The book will have a preface and a postface by two eminent Italian scientists and well-known personalities, Piero Angela and Carlo Petrini. Also, the book will be presented on various relevant occasions, and a wide campaign especially aiming at introducing ST and SD at the level of school training will be carried out. This could lead to the translation of other interesting key books especially in the sustainability field and of course dealing with ST and SD (i.e.: *The Fifth Discipline*, *The Systems Thinking Playbook*, etc.).

- organized an important international workshop together with a partner association, the Business Systems laboratory (BSLab), in Rome (January 2017) where many scientists and academics (more than 40 presented papers and keynotes) from the wider systems thinking community met in order to discuss the topic of "Model-based Governance for Smart Organizational Future" (see: bslab-symposium.net/BSLab-Sydic-2017/BSLAB-SYDIC-WS-Rome-2017.htm).

- participated, as a partner association, at the 2017 WOSC Conference, coordinating a track on System Dynamics (<http://wosc2017rome.asvsa.org>).

- started the organization of the first SYDIC Summer School on "Scenario Analysis and Sustainable Policy Modelling with Computer Simulation" at the Lake of Como School (September 11-15, 2017, for details see: <http://amcs.lakecomoschool.org>). Among the keynote speakers/teachers, there will be Society members and officers: Pål Davidsen, Kim Warren, Stefano Armenia, Edoardo Mollona, Douglas McKelvie, and Nuno Videira.

- acquired an EU Grant (Erasmus+Sports) funding the BRISWA Project (the Ball Rolls In the Same Way for All), Jan 2017-Jun 2018, aiming at identifying the most effective policies and practices in order to mitigate racism in football/soccer and in sports (and through sports): www.briswa.eu.

- submitted a proposal to participate in various key events for scientific dissemination and/or school training (Festival of Sciences, Salon of School Training, etc.).

- started to organize (possibly early or late 2018) a big-event on Smart Model-based Governance (SMbG) and Decision making (joining data-driven with model-driven approaches and vice-versa). A preliminary work on this very hot and relevant topic was presented at the recent BSLab-SYDIC Workshop 2017, titled "Smart Model-based Governance: from Big-Data to future Policy Making" (Armenia, Franco, Mecella, Onori). Book of abstracts: bslab-symposium.net/BSLab-Sydic-2017/Book-Abstracts-BSLab-Sydic-2017-final.pdf (pp.44-53).

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❖ New leadership of **Korea Chapter** began February 25, 2017. Chang-Kwon (Benjamin) Chung was elected the 10th president of the Korea Chapter of the System Dynamics Society in February, at the annual winter Korean System Dynamics Conference and general assembly. Benjamin holds a PhD in International Business Strategy and is a research fellow at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea. Almost 40 of the chapter's 300 members attended this conference, including nine high school students for post presentation. Benjamin states "My mission is to vitalize this bequest, make the membership and finance stronger, boom up K-12 SD, and bridge Korean System Dynamics Society with SDS."

The Korean Chapter, established in 1999, holds monthly seminars (from March to June and September to November), two annual conferences (summer and winter), and four publications of their own System Dynamics journal every year.

❖ The **Latin American Chapter** had the opportunity to gather during the past XIV SD Latin American conference, which took place in Sao Paulo, Brasil, in October 2016. The program of the conference included keynote speakers, as well as workshops and parallel sessions with the relevant work from our chapter colleagues. We are now working on the next SDS LATAM conference, celebrating our XV anniversary! This conference will take place in Santiago de Chile, October 18-20, 2017. Please visit our Chapter Facebook page for more information: facebook.com/sdslatam. If you would like to join us please contact Gloria Pérez (gloria.perez@itesm.mx).

❖ A Systems Thinking course (archetypes) was held at ENAP – Escola Nacional de Administração Pública (Brazilian School of Public Administration), in Brasília, in March, for ninety attendees, organized by the **Brazil Chapter** of the Society. Classes were taught by Karim Chichakly, with assistance from members of the Chapter. ❖

❖ Jim Rogers (rogers.james@amgresults.com) and Ed Gallaher are looking forward to a **Biomedical SIG** meeting in Cambridge in July and all the networking opportunities the conference provides. Opportunities for world-changing, inside-the-skin dynamic modeling applications are just waiting to be explored! Jim asks if you have any ideas for inclusion in the annual SIG meeting to please contact him directly. See you there!

❖ The **UK Chapter** has continued to organize a series of networking meetings in different venues across the UK, most recently in Bristol in December 2016, and in Leeds in February 2017. The main event, as ever, is our annual conference, which will be held on the 5th and 6th of April 2017, at London South Bank University. In a fitting tribute to Jay Forrester, the plenary presentations on April 5th cover contemporary examples of applications related to his original work in *Industrial Dynamics*, *Urban Dynamics*, and *World Dynamics*, as well as related work in health. Featured on April 6th are reflections on the development of the field, a round-table discussion of the state of System Dynamics education and training in the UK based around the recently-published competency framework, and presentations from post-graduate students. New this year, we will run an introduction to SD modelling session.

In previous years, we have attracted participants from across the UK as well as from elsewhere in Europe. There is still time to book a place, and full details are available: systemdynamics.org.uk/annual-gathering/.

❖ The **China Chapter** hosted a parallel session during the annual conference of China's System Engineering Society in late October, 2016. China Chapter regular meetings have been scheduled two

or three times per year. The book *The Frontiers and Application of System Dynamics* (in Chinese) was published by Science Press in November, 2016. It attempts to find answers to the following: (1) System Archetypes, as an important part of the common structure, what is its structure and the behavior that might have? (2) Modeling of RATE Variable Fundamental in-tree. (3) Model validity and verification.

The serial training seminar of System Dynamics in 2017 is scheduled starting from early March in Shanghai. A delegation of China Chapter attended the Asia-Pacific Region SD conference in Singapore in February 2017. To develop an SD course in the MOOC platform in China and explore the possibility of cooperation with SD organization to develop Micro class are also on this year's agenda.

❖ In February 2017, the **German Chapter** of the Society, **Deutsche Gesellschaft für System Dynamics e. V. (DGSD)**, awarded longtime system dynamicists Peter Milling and Erich Zahn the honorary membership of the DGSD for their achievements in System Dynamics and support of the objectives of the DGSD. Congratulations, Peter and Erich!

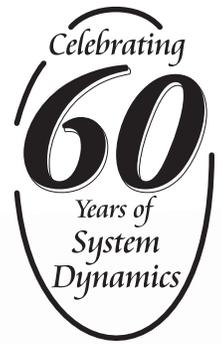
Also in February 2017, the board of the DGSD met for a day and a half strategy workshop to agree on the major activities to be carried out for the next two years. Currently, the DGSD is preparing its 11th annual meeting which will take place September 18-19, 2017 at the Umweltbundesamt in Dessau-Roßlau, Germany. Besides having a high-level guest speaker, the Gert-von-Kortzfleisch



Honorary members Peter Milling (middle left) and Erich Zahn (middle right) with DGSD board members Andreas Größler (far left) and Florian Kapmeier (far right)

Prize for excellent System Dynamics work published in German, or by a German author, or prepared in any language at German institutions will also be awarded. Meeting organizers anticipate that about 50 people will attend the meeting that entails eight to ten presentations, a PhD Colloquium, and a modeling workshop. Further, after having designed the DGSD scholarship in 2015 to support German students enrolled in the European Master in System Dynamics program, the second DGSD scholarship was granted to Gian Wieck. Further details are available at the Chapter website, which can be found by going to the Activities and Resources link on the Society website.

❖ The **Student Chapter** has been actively working to create student-led peer mentoring groups. Current groups integrate students from the U.S. and Europe. These groups provide insight and feedback to students who are learning System Dynamics either at an institution with formal SD classes, or on their own. There is a proposal to have a peer-mentoring poster session, and panel discussion at the 2017 conference. We will also be looking to form new groups. Please check the Student Chapter Facebook page for updates: www.facebook.com/groups/171595223257953/?ref=bookmarks



Program

2017 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the field of System Dynamics. It is thus fitting that we hold the 60th anniversary conference in Cambridge, next to the MIT campus where Jay Forrester developed the field. Today, System Dynamics is used around the world, from K-12 classrooms through doctoral programs, in scholarly research across many disciplines, and in applications from organizational change to climate change, from medicine to management. We will celebrate the accomplishments of the past six decades and explore future directions by showcasing the best work in dynamic modeling being done today.

To **register** visit the conference website for online registration or to download a registration form. Registration fees increase after June 21st.

Workshops

Hands-on **workshops** and tutorial sessions facilitated by leading scholars in the field will run in parallel on Thursday. Separately, the **Modeling Assistance Workshop** will be held, pairing those who

have modeling questions with experienced modelers for one-on-one coaching.

Other events

Other events include the PhD Colloquium on Sunday, Newcomer Orientation Session, and Chapter and Special Interest Group meetings. The SD Career Link Bulletin Board and the Red Ribbon Event will link job seekers with employment opportunities. The Model Expo will offer participants a chance to talk with others about how their models work. Exhibitor demonstrations will showcase products and services in practice. The Spouses' Lounge will offer a place for travel companions to meet and explore the area.

Summer School

A *four-day* System Dynamics Summer School will be held immediately preceding the conference, with two tracks for students. *Note: Dates are July 11-14.*

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Visit the conference website:
conference.systemdynamics.org

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Addendum



Submitted by J. Bradley Morrison, Society Secretary

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 2017 winter meeting opened with electronic discussions in early 2017. The second session was a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts on March 16, 2017 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 motions being considered for this meeting include the slate of candidates to take office in 2018, appointments to fill two open Policy Council offices in 2017, recognition of the ASEAN Chapter, and the formation of a new standing committee--the Asia Pacific Coordinating Council. There are also several motions about the home office move from the University at Albany and selecting Capitol Hill Management Services as a preferred vendor.

Policy Council Meeting minutes can be accessed via the Governance page of the Society's website.

2018 Policy Council Nominations:

During the 2017 Winter PC Meeting, the following were nominated as officers and members of the Policy Council, to take office in 2018: • President Elect (2018) Martin Schaffernicht • Vice President of Electronic Presence (2018-2020) Robert Eberlein • Vice President Membership (2018-2020) Özge Pala • Vice President Publications (2018-2020) Krystyna Stave • Policy Council Members (2018-2020) Shayne Gary, Hilde Martinussen, Josephine Musango and Raafat Zaini.

The Nominating Committee submits 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."