

President's Letter

To the Members,

As the incoming President of the System Dynamics Society I am pleased to initiate the *President's Letter* as a new vehicle for communications between members. The *President's Letter* will provide news on Society affairs, notes on member activities, announcements of future events and other items of interest to the Society. I solicit your comments and suggestions regarding the format and content of the *President's Letter*. If you have notes you would like to share with other members in future issues of the letter, please send them to me at the Society office.

I will be working to streamline the Society's operations during the new year. Your comments and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

- Nathan B. Forrester, President

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New Executive Editor of the *Review*

George Richardson is taking over from Eric Wolstenholme as Executive Editor of the *System Dynamics Review*. George has been working hard for the last few years as Vice President for Publications to see that the *Review* is a high quality journal published on time and at a reasonable cost.

We owe Eric a great deal of thanks as gives up his post at the *Review* and becomes President Elect. Eric invested countless hours over many years to create *Dynamica*, the first scholarly journal devoted to system dynamics. When the System Dynamics Society was formed, Eric agreed to work as Executive Editor of the newly formed *System Dynamics Review*.

Eric's energy and experience were instrumental in making the *Review* a success.

New Executive Director Appointed:

Starting on January 1, 1988 the System Dynamics Society has, for the first time, an Executive Director. **Julia Spear Pugh** has graciously accepted the position of Executive Director without remuneration. Julie will be responsible for administrative oversight previously provided by the System Dynamics Group at MIT and Pugh-Roberts, Associates. Amongst the duties Julie has agreed to accept are: maintaining membership and financial records, coordinating activities of the officers, and maintaining discipline in the Society's calendar of events. We have long needed to concentrate responsibility for the details of Society business in a single person. In the past, budget limitations have precluded hiring anyone. Julie's volunteer effort should greatly improve the Society's work. Please join me in welcoming her.

New Computer Database for the Society:

Starting on or about January 1, 1988 the Society will have a new computerized database. I am developing the database in Double Helix II for the Apple Macintosh. The database will integrate membership, subscription, and financial records for the first time. After the inevitable breakin period, we hope that record-keeping will be smooth and correct. If you believe that your records are not correct at this time please use the address correction/comment form enclosed to provide updated information. A Macintosh computer system has been donated to the Society by myself and Prof. Jay W. Forrester.

Change to a Calendar Year

By vote of the Policy Council the Society will operate on a calendar year basis starting on January 1, 1988. In the past, memberships, terms of office, and the Society financial records were based on a fiscal year starting September 1 and ending August 31. The shift was required by the U S Internal Revenue Service. During the transition all members will receive extended benefits. Members who paid dues covering the period from September 1, 1986 to August 31, 1987 will automatically have their memberships extended through December 31, 1987. All members joining or renewing after September 1, 1987 will be paid up through December 31, 1988. Because the *Review* is published in late winter and late summer, the change in fiscal year does not affect the number of issues members will receive.

Nominations for Society Officers

As Past President, Dennis Meadows is chairman of the Nominating Committee which will pick nominees for 1988 elections. Three officers and four policy council members will be elected:

- President Elect
- Vice President for Meetings
- Vice President at Large
- Policy Council (4 Members)

If you would like to suggest names for consideration by the Nominating Committee, please communicate with Dennis Meadows or me at the office by February 28, 1988.

Nominations for Jay W. Forrester Award

Nominations for the 1988 Jay W. Forrester award should be sent to me at the principal office. The award is normally given each year for the best work in system dynamics published during the last five years. Nominations should clearly identify the work describe its contribution to the field and include a copy for review.

New Sponsors

During the last year several individuals and organizations have joined as Sponsors (\$1000) and Affiliates (\$500) of the System Dynamics Society. These contributors make an important difference in maintaining the quality of the *Review* and improving member services. Sponsors are recognized in the *System Dynamics Review* and other appropriate places.

Members are encouraged to seek new sponsors with

an interest in supporting the Society. Consider yourself, your own organization, client organizations and supportive individuals. Members should contact potential sponsors directly or forward their names to me at the office for follow-up by one of the officers. (Contributions are tax-deductible under regulations of the US Internal Revenue Service.)

1988 Conference in La Jolla, California

Jack Homer is organizing the 1988 International Conference of the System Dynamics Society. The conference will be held in La Jolla, California, USA from July 5 through July 8, 1988 on the campus of the University of California, San Diego. Start making your travel arrangements; it looks like a very good program. For details contact:

Dr. Jack Homer
Institute of Safety & Systems Mgt, Rm 102
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California 90089-0021 USA
(213) 743-4669 or (213) 743-5119

1989 Conference in Stuttgart, Germany

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

Upcoming in the *System Dynamics Review*

The upcoming winter issue of the *System Dynamics Review* (Vol. 4(1)) is a very exciting special issue on nonlinear dynamics and chaos edited by Erik Mosekilde, Javier Aracil, and Peter Allen. The international slate of authors has worked hard to report their pioneering work on the analysis of nonlinear dynamical systems in a readable fashion relevant to mainstream system dynamics practitioners. The issue includes notes describing immediately usable teaching exercises and simple models that move from oscillations to period doubling and chaos.

The summer issue (Vol. 4(2)) following the special issue on chaos will be a regular issue containing reports of research and applications ranging from sheep predation, to electrical energy usage and forecasting, to mathematical model simplification. Volume 5(1), scheduled to be mailed early in 1989, is a special issue edited by Jack Homer and Ralph Levine on the difficult topic of psychological dynamics and stress.

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:

Khalid Saeed (12/90)
 Wilburt Wils (12/90)
 Toshiro Shimada (12/90)
 Michael J. Radzicki (12/90)
 Javier Aracil (12/89)
 Alan K. Graham (12/89)
 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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Dr. Nathan B. Forrester
 79 East Bare Hill Road
 Harvard, MA 01451 USA

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Address Change & Comment Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 City: _____
 State/Province: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Country: _____
 Business Phone: _____
 Home Phone: _____

- Note Change of Address
- Please Send Membership Information
- Membership Problems (Explain on back)
- Subscription Problems (Explain on back)
- Other: (Please comment here or on back)

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