ABSEL news & notes

Annette L. Halpin
Arcadia University, USA

ABSEL 2008 Conference

ABSEL held another successful conference—its 35th—in Charleston, South Carolina in early March 2008. Many thanks to our 2007-2008 president, Richie Platt (University of West Florida) and our conference program chair, Andy Feinstein (Cal Poly Pomona) for coordinating an outstanding program for all attendees. Two very special speakers shared their passion for learning with the ABSEL membership. The keynote speaker, Claire Condra, demonstrated some of the capabilities that one simulated environment, SECOND LIFE, has to offer, and challenged all in attendance to consider participating in this alternate world. Pat Sanders, president of Post University and former ABSEL president, shared her thoughts on the current state of higher education including the presence of for-profit institutions as well as the increasing demand for alternate delivery modes such as online and accelerated programs.

As we continue our work with simulations, experiential exercises, and online learning ABSEL’s new president, Dick Teach (Georgia Tech) will be working diligently with ABSEL's officers to coordinate our activities for the year. Those in attendance at the March meeting received an automatic membership renewal to ABSEL. For those who could not attend, it is time to renew. You can do so online by visiting our Web site (http://www.absel.org) and clicking on “How to Join ABSEL?” For a payment of $60 one becomes a member and receives a CD-ROM containing the Bernie Keys Library, a completely word-searchable archive of all ABSEL proceedings since 1974; a complete set of the Journal of Experiential Learning and Simulations; and Jim Gentry’s book Guide to Business Gaming and Experiential Learning. A $100 premium membership adds a subscription to Simulation & Gaming: An Interdisciplinary Journal.
ISAGA news & notes

Thomas Eberle
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany

ISAGA Summer School 2008

The 5th International Summer School in Gaming Simulation will take place from June 21-30, 2008, in New Delhi, India, at the IILM (Institute for Integrated Learning in Management). The theme will be “The Art and Science of Simulation and Gaming Design and Facilitation for Business and Management.” Only a very few places for participants are still available.

The Summer School is held jointly by the International Simulation and Gaming Association, Swiss Austrian German Simulation and Gaming Association, and India Simulation and Gaming Association. For further information have a look at www.isaga-summerschool.org.

ISAGA Conference 2008

The 39th ISAGA Conference at Kaunas University of Technology will be held from July 7-11, 2008. The theme is “GAMES: Virtual worlds and reality.” For further information have a look at http://www.isaga2008.lt. The conference might be an opportunity for a summer visit to Lithuania.

For further information please refer to the ISAGA Web page, www.isaga.info, or contact Thomas Eberle, office@thomas-eberle.de.

JASAG news & notes

Toshiko Kikkawa
Keio University, Japan

The annual spring conference of JASAG will be held from May 31 to June 1, 2008, at the Toshi Center Hotel located in the center of Tokyo. The conference theme will be “On-ko, Chi-shin.” The phrase is quoted from the Analects of Confucius, the ancient Chinese philosopher, and is well known among Japanese people. Directly translated, On-ko means to explore the past, while Chi-shin means to know the future. In short, the conference theme implies that by carefully examining the richness of gaming simulation research, we can discover new knowledge and perspectives.
As JASAG was established in 1989 and will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year, it seems to be a good idea at this point to go back to basics before we step forward into a new era.

The conference program includes a number of experiential sessions. Although the number of members has been increasing, many newcomers do not know “traditional” games such as BAFA BAFA, DESERT SURVIVAL, the BEER GAME, or the COMMONS GAME. Therefore, the conference committee would like to offer opportunities to experience these games as well as new games developed by JASAG members. These experiential sessions are expected to inspire lively discussions, not only among newcomers but also among “old” members, through all-night talks at the hotel. Hopefully, the discussions will lead to a new era of simulation and gaming in Japan.

In addition, the annual autumn conference will be held at the Chiba Institute of Technology. We will continue the discussion there and will have academic presentations, as is usual.

For further information, please contact secretary@jasag.org.

**NASAGA news & notes**

Richard L. Dukes  
*University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, USA*

**40th Annual NASAGA Conference**

The 2008 conference will be the 40th annual conference on simulations and games. It will be held from October 15-18, 2008, in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Courtyard Indianapolis Marriott Downtown (telephone: +1 317-635-4443; address: 501 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 USA). Sivasailam Thiagarajan is the organizer. The conference will feature face-to-face interaction, hi-tech online activities, and innovative combinations of different approaches. The Indianapolis conference will be the first one in which members of NASAGA voted electronically for one of ten suggested conference themes. The winning theme is “Pit Stop for GAS (Games, Activities and Simulations).”

The conference will feature two certificate programs, (1) How to design learning GAS and (2) How to facilitate GAS. Two social activities will punctuate the proceedings: On Wednesday night a reception will be held for attendees, facilitators, and organizers, and on Friday night a banquet and auction will be held.

Included in the conference will be three full-day preconference workshops, keynote speakers at three breakfasts, dozens of concurrent sessions, and gaming sessions every night. For more information, contact The Thiagi Group (http://www.thiagi.com; telephone: +1 812-332-1478; address: Workshops by Thiagi, Inc., 4423 E. Trailridge Road, Bloomington, IN 47408-9633 USA).

**NASAGA Board of Directors**

For 2008, Sivasailam Thiagarajan is president, Judee Blohm is chair, Dolly Joseph is vice chair, Jimbo Clark is secretary, and Lilianne Lessard is treasurer. New
board members include Thiagi, Joseph, and Clark as well as Greg Koeser, Brandon Carson, and Dave Piltz. Board members whose terms have expired include Dave Matte, Brian Remer, Sonia Ribaux, Mark Shiman, and William Wake. On behalf of NASAGA, thank you for your service.

Contact

As NASAGA reporter to *Simulation & Gaming*, I am interested in news that concerns the organization. I am always open to including pertinent news. You may reach me by phone +1-719-598-6277, or write c/o Department of Sociology, Box 7150, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO 80918, USA; e-mail: rdukes@uccs.edu.

**SAGSAGA news & notes**

**Thomas Eberle**  
*Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany*

**SAGSAGA networking meeting**

The SAGSAGA Networking Meeting took place in Munich, Germany, on April 18-19, 2008. The main foci were simulations for military purposes and for crisis management. Different lecturers gave impressions and details in the fields of simulation and gaming in the military field, networked security, decision making in international organizations, and training in crisis management.

During the Learntec trade fair (www.learntec.de), the European Simulation and Gaming Forum, with presentations, was appreciated by many visitors.

SAGSAGA presented simulation and gaming at a booth during the Swiss Professional Learning trade fair on April 22-23, 2008, in Zurich. During a panel discussion Thomas Eberle, Georg Fehling, Hanja Hansen, Willy Kriz, and Gudrun Vogt showed interesting strategies for organizational development.

For further information please refer to the SAGSAGA Web page, www.sagsaga.org, or contact Thomas Eberle, office@thomas-eberle.de.

**SIETAR-USA news & notes**

**Margaret D. Pusch**  
*Intercultural Communication Institute; SIETAR-USA*

The Global Network for SIETAR is planning a conference that all the SIETAR organizations are developing in cooperation. It will feature presentations and interactive sessions led by people from around the world, and it is being held in Granada, Spain.

**SSAGSg news & notes**

**Yeo Gee Kin**  
*National University of Singapore*

**AGM**

The following council members were elected at the AGM held on March 8, 2008:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>YEO Gee Kin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>CAI Yiyu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>CHUI Chee Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
<td>Bimblesh WADHWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Genevieve NG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
<td>Abel Paschal TAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>GUAN Yunqing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Program</td>
<td>LIM Heng Seng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication</td>
<td>Kevin LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Publication</td>
<td>CHUA Guat Kheng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>TAN Yew Khim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>WANG Shiping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Membership</td>
<td>CHANDRASEKARAN Indhumathi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditor</td>
<td>SIAU Tan Long</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ISAGA 2009**

SSAGSg will be hosting the ISAGA 2009 International Conference in Singapore. Details will follow soon.

**SGX**

SGX, a simulation/gaming information exchange repository in its upgrade version, is up on the SSAGSg Web site at www.ssagsg.org/SGX.

**2008 National Digital Science Arts Competition**

The 2008 National Digital Science Arts Competition held a Prize Presentation Ceremony-cum-Exhibition in Chua Chu Kang Community Club on March 15, 2008 (Saturday). Supported by the Creative Community Singapore, Ministry of Information, Communication and The Arts, the competition was organized by Mobile Immersive Theatre and SSAGSg.

The SSAGSg Web site is http://www.ssagsg.org/.