Association news & notes

ABSEL news & notes

Annette L. Halpin
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It ain’t over ’til it’s over

This is the time of year when we often ask ourselves how it is that the year is almost over; professionally, we have not accomplished half of what we set out to do in January. We can blame it on any number of things (and people), but the reality might be that, even after all these years in the world of work, we still lack the ability to distinguish between wishful thinking and realistic goals. However the year is not over yet. So if you find that you are eager to share your thoughts on business education with others, there is time to put the finishing touches on that manuscript that you have been working on and submit it for inclusion in ABSEL’s 2009 Program. Whether your expertise is in simulated environments, learning assessment, online teaching/learning, or experiential exercises, we are interested in hearing your views on the state of business education today.

ABSEL will be meeting from 18-20 March, 2009 in Seattle, Washington (USA). With three tracks and five categories of sessions, ABSEL makes it easy to find the right format to present your thoughts and research findings. Practitioners from around the globe including Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Japan, the USA, and the UK joined us last year for a lively conference. We expect nothing less in 2009. Anyone interested in submitting a paper or coordinating an interactive session, panel, roundtable, or demonstration is encouraged to submit your ideas by 3 November, 2008. For detailed information about the conference and the submission process, visit our Web site at www.absel.org. New this year is a postconference day of sessions which will allow participants to run simulations and experiential exercises over several hours in order to gain a better understanding of how these tools add value to the learning experience of students.

If you did not attend the 2008 conference in Charleston, consider renewing or starting your membership to ABSEL now. There are two levels from which to choose. At the $60 level your membership includes a CD-ROM of the Bernie Keys Library—a word-searchable archive of all ABSEL proceedings since 1974. Also included are issues of the Journal of Experiential Learning and Simulation, plus Jim...
Gentry’s *Guide to Business Gaming and Experiential Learning*. With an additional $40 ($100 in total), members receive an annual subscription to the journal Simulation & Gaming. Visit our Web site (www.absel.org), click on “How to join ABSEL,” and read how to become a member either by mail or online.

**ISAGA news & notes**

**Thomas Eberle**

*Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany*

**ISAGA Summer School 2008**

The 5th International Summer School in Gaming Simulation took place in New Delhi (India), 21-30 June, 2008, at the IILM-Institute for Integrated Learning in Management. *The art and science of simulation and gaming design and facilitation for business and management* was taught by:

- Willy Kriz (Austria), past ISAGA President, Director of ISAGA Summer School
- Elyssebeth Leigh (Australia), gaming simulation designer, Faculty of Education, University of Technology, Sidney
- Paola Rizzi (Italy), Professor of Urban and Territorial Systems at Faculty of Architecture, University of Sassari, Director of ISAGA Summer School
- Richard Teach (USA) gaming simulation designer, College of Management, Institute of Technology Georgia University
- Pieter van der Hijden (Netherlands), director, SOFOS Consultancy, & Suriname
- Ivo Wenzler, University of Technology Delft, The Netherlands & Accenture Consultancy (Partner)

For further information have a look at www.isaga-summerschool.org.

**ISAGA Conference 2008**

The 39th ISAGA Conference at took place at Kaunas University of Technology, 7-11 July, 2008. The theme was Games: Virtual worlds and reality. Thematic sessions were: Games & Culture, Economics and Business, Education, Learning Languages, Building simulations and games; Web-based simulations and games. The Open Air museum in Rumsiskes (30 km from Kaunas) gave an insight into life and work 200 years ago. The ISAGA conference 2009 in Singapore was presented. For further information, have a look at http://www.isaga2008.lt.
JASAG news & notes

Toshiko Kikkawa
Keio University, Japan

The annual autumn JASAG conference was held from 31 May to 1 June, 2008, at the Toshi Center Hotel in Tokyo. Fifty-five people, including nonmembers, attended the conference. In the afternoon of the first day, two parallel experiential sessions took place in which participants took part in some traditional games, such as the NASA game, the TRADE GAME, and BARNGA. These sessions must have appealed to nonmembers, as some of them became new members. The lively discussion continued during night sessions that focused on business games and environmental education games. Some of the participants may have been distracted during the morning symposium on the following day, as they had continued their discussions almost all night long at the hotel. The theme of the symposium was Challenges of gaming and simulation in relation to current problems. The plenary experiential session followed in the afternoon, in which a game about international politics, newly developed by a member, was introduced and discussed.

Related to the theme of the conference symposium, I would like to present two ongoing Japanese examples, to which members of JASAG have made notable contributions.

The world is preparing to face a new pandemic involving an emerging influenza virus, and Japan will not escape this. The Japanese Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Labor, which is in charge of dealing with a flu pandemic, if it occurs, has adopted two gaming and simulation approaches to examine the problem. On the gaming side, the Ministry has started to distribute a card game called PANDEMIC FLU. The rules of the game are based on a traditional card game known as QUARTETT in Germany or HAPPY FAMILIES in the U.K. The aim of the game is to disseminate basic knowledge on preparedness for a flu pandemic among Japanese people. Important words and knowledge concerning the flu pandemic appear on the cards. The game will involve players asking each other questions such as “Do you have a mutant virus?” when playing the game.

On the simulation side, the Ministry has a fund to support projects that conduct research into the spread of a flu pandemic. The Tokyo Institute of Technology has been conducting an extensive simulation based on a multiagent model. This analysis enables a more precise estimation of the influence of a pandemic on society.

The next annual autumn JASAG conference will be held on 25-26 October, 2008 at the Chiba Institute of Technology, which is very close to Tokyo. In addition, the JASAG conference committee is planning to have the 2009 spring conference immediately before or after the ISAGA conference held in Singapore. Please plan to come to Japan in 2009, as we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of JASAG and the 1299th anniversary of the relocation of the capital to Nara, which is one of the old capital cities of Japan. The details will be announced in the next N&N from JASAG.

For further information, please contact: secretary@jasag.org.
NASAGA news & notes

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

40th Annual NASAGA Conference

This note is the last call for the 2008 annual conference to be held next month, 15-18 October, 2008. The site is Courtyard Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, 501 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, USA (Telephone: +1 317-6354443). Sivasailam Thiagarajan is the organizer. Playing on the famous automobile race, the Indianapolis 500, the conference theme is *Pit Stop for GAS (Games, Activities and Simulations)*. The conference will incorporate face-to-face interaction and hi-tech online activities. It will feature certificate programs of how to design and how to facilitate games, activities, and simulations. Included in the conference will be three full-day preconference workshops. For more information, contact: The Thiagi Group (http://www.thiagi.com); telephone is +1 812-3321478, and mailing address is Workshops by Thiagi, Inc., 4423 E Trailridge Rd., Bloomington, IN 47408-9633, USA.

Simages

The spring 2008 issue of the NASAGA newsletter has been posted on the Web site (Volume 8, Issue Number 1; see http://www.nasaga.org/resources/simages/2008_volume1.pdf). This issue includes news about conferences, board of directors, and awards. As in previous issues, Simages 8:1 contains short articles about simulations and games. The theme for the current issue is team building. Two NASAGA awards recently have been given. The first award, Rising Star, is given to a first-time presenter at the annual conference. Jimbo Clark won the award for his presentation, Essential elements of designing simulations and games. The second award, the Ifill/Reynolds Memorial Award, is given to the person who most exemplifies joy and serious purpose in simulation and gaming. Mel Silberman won the award for a career of inspiring students to learn and collaborate effectively. Congratulations Jimbo and Mel.

Digest for discussions

Only a few years ago NASAGA was pondering the problem of how members could keep in touch with each other more easily and get answers to questions about simulation and gaming. After several modestly successful attempts to solve this problem, the current discussion forum was put into place. The discussion utility now has over 2000 e-mail subscribers, and it contains almost 400 items. Of particular
interest are over 100 introductions of new members and a recent thread of assessing learning from games and simulations (http://www.nasaga.org/webx/discussion).

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 18-19 April 2008. Main topics were military simulations and crises management simulations. Different presenters gave impressions and details in the fields of simulation and gaming, the military, networked security, decision making in international organizations, and training of crises management.

SAGSAGA Web page

A new SAGSAGA Web page has been developed and will be ready in autumn 2008. Eric Treske and Thomas Eberle are coordinating activities. Technical and graphic realization: Oliver Kriz.

Swiss Professional Learning

SAGSAGA presented simulation and gaming at a stand at the Swiss Professional Learning trade fair in Zurich on 22-23 April 2008. During a panel discussion Thomas Eberle, Georg Fehling, Hanja Hansen, Willy Kriz, and Gudrun Vogt showed strategies for organizational development. The discussion in the German language is also available on mp3 at http://www.thomas-eberle.de/swissprof/.

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*

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SSAGSg news & notes

Yeo Gee Kin

*National University of Singapore*

In 2009, SSAGSg will be host to the 40th anniversary ISAGA conference. For more information, please contact yeogk@comp.nus.edu.sg, mpecck@nus.edu.sg, and MYYCai@ntu.edu.sg. The SSAGSg Web site is http://www.ssagsg.org/.

ThaiSim news & notes

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*Mahidol University, Thailand*

Kalayanee Jitgarun

*King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand*

In a July 2008 meeting in Bangkok, a group of 26 enthusiastic teachers, trainers, and researchers set up a new association in Thailand. The short name is ThaiSim. A longer name is still under discussion.

Actions planned in the next year include:

- writing a constitution
- publishing a ThaiSim Newsletter
- organizing a conference
- recruiting members
- organizing a workshop
- setting up a Web site and discussion forum

We will have more news for you in the next issue. In the meanwhile, we invite you to join us by sending an email to <songsrisora@yahoo.com>.