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Message from SIM

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MESSAGE FROM SIM

As 2007 comes to a close, we look back on a busy year for SIM that was filled with many achievements and successes. In my message in the December 2006 issue of MISQE, I outlined the key SIM objectives planned for the year. These objectives, while lofty in their intent, were meant to enable more meaningful member interaction and increase the value derived from belonging to the organization. Our efforts during the past year were driven by the following key concepts:

- Broadening member networking opportunities

- Enhancing the SIM reference library

- Enhancing individual member development and professional growth

- Expanding chapter program support offerings

- Leveraging the "Future Potential in IT' program

- Re-engaging RLF Graduates

- Strengthening the communication with SIM members

Highlights of SIM's achievements and successes in 2007 include:

- The annual SIMposium provides tailored education for the CIO and executive IT community. **SIM*posium* 2007, Technology: Taking Care of Business** brought a unique view of the role IT plays in the current business climate. Beyond the first-rate speakers, outstanding networking events, and record-breaking attendance, there was a contagious energy among the more than 700 senior IT executives who attended. It is important to add that this was the largest SIMposium in the history of the organization!

- SIM's high-level research program, the Advanced Practices Council (APC), is an exclusive network of C-level IT professionals, which affords its members the opportunity to share ideas, thoughts, concerns, and strategic industry initiatives. The APC delivered two important pieces of research to the SIM membership this year. The reports "Grooming the 2010 CIO" and the "Wiki in Your Company" will make a lasting impact on our organizations.

- Through its Regional Leadership Forum (RLF), SIM offers an intensive leadership development program for IT executives. There were over 280 participants from 118 companies in the 9 Forums. This was the largest group of RLF participants in the history of the program.

- The Future Potential in IT program geared towards college students that have not declared a major was hosted in seven cities around the country. The program strives to get students excited about a future in the field and highlight the benefits of a career in IT, thereby helping to fill the pipeline of future IT leaders.

- SIM's Communities of Interest and working groups have been actively fostering collaboration and a candid exchange of knowledge among their participants. In addition to the IT Procurement and Enterprise Architecture groups, 2007 saw the launch of SIM Women. SIM Women is a community of interest focused on the development of female IT leaders. The work products and leading practices identified by these groups are available to all SIM members for implementation in their organizations.

In early December, SIM will launch its new web portal. Our goal is to establish a cutting edge site that is both highly interactive and content rich. The new SIMnet.org will be a "go to" site for member sharing, peer networking, finding comprehensive information, and links. This initiative is worth watching closely, because it could represent the birth of SIM 2.0, where we leverage the best technology from our profession to help our society embrace the new phenomenon of social networking.

I would also like to remind you that excellent resources such as *MISQE* allow SIM to maintain a strong connection to the academic community. New advancements in the IT field prompt changes in the role that the CIO plays in the enterprise. This is all the more reason to collaborate with the academic community who provide compelling research in an unbiased environment. The 2007 highlights of SIM's relationship with the academic community include:

The SIM Paper Awards Competition winners: Intel, YCH Group, and Wal-Mart were recognized for their innovative approaches in information technology. It's their innovative practices and insight that continues to raise the bar for our community.

On December 8, 2007, SIM will hold its 13th Annual Academic Workshop, *IT Business Alignment: Making it Real*. Intended for both academicians and practitioners, this workshop bridges the gap between academic research and IT management. Scheduled paper presentations will examine the meaning of alignment, the mechanisms companies use, the models they adopt, the metrics they apply and the changes they introduce to better align IT with business goals and objectives.

As we look forward to 2008, I wish Bob Keefe success as he assumes the presidency for SIM International. I do so with considerable optimism that the future is bright and our efforts will continue to enhance the value our members, their organizations and the IT profession receive from SIM.

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