Editor's Comments

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

With this September 2010 issue, we are pleased to announce two new *MISQE* Senior Editors, both of whom have served on our Editorial Board for several years, have authored several *MISQE* articles, and have strong ties to academic communities on multiple continents: Bill Kettinger (University of Memphis) and Dorothy Leidner (Baylor University). We also look forward to extending our international reach to practice-oriented researchers outside of the North American continent as we have openings on our Editorial Board.

In the coming months *MISQE* will be represented at several SIM-sponsored annual events. With Rick Watson, the SIM-APC research director, we anticipate hosting a "leading thinking" breakout session at SIM*posium* in Atlanta in early October. Under the leadership of SIM's new academic liaison, Mary Sumner (Associate Dean at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville), *MISQE* will also be represented in a CIO forum at the 31st ICIS conference in St. Louis in mid-December.

This year's SIM-sponsored Academic Workshop will be held December 11th in St. Louis prior to the ICIS conference. The theme will be "New IS Leadership Roles for a Digital World." The program chairs for the workshop will also be the editors for an *MISQE* issue on the same topic scheduled for one year later: Varun Grover (Clemson University) and Elena Karahanna (University of Georgia), along with *MISQE* Senior Editor Omar El Sawy (University of Southern California).

The research articles published in this issue also reflect the expanded roles of today's IS leaders and present some solutions. In the first research article, "How Organizational Network Analysis Facilitated Transition from a Regional to a Global IT Function," the potential benefits from using social network analysis tools as part of an organizational transformation initiative is demonstrated with a multi-year globalization initiative for the IT function. This article is co-authored by academic researchers in multiple disciplines (Rob Cross at the University of Virginia and Alexandra Gerbasi of CSU-Northbridge) as well as key participants in the initiative at MWH Global, Inc.

Given the collaboration shortcomings that were evident during the recent Gulf of Mexico oil spill crisis, the article entitled "Managing IT Collaboration in Multi-Organizational Time-Critical Services" clearly holds potential lessons for a wide range of time-critical, multi-organizational response situations. Co-authored by Benjamin Schooley, Thomas Horan, and Michael Marich (all affiliated with Claremont Graduate University), the article provides a general framework for and descriptions of inter-organizational relationship and governance mechanisms based on a case study of event-driven services for which data exchange can literally mean the difference between human life and death.

The third article, "Effective Information Security Requires a Balance of Social and Technology Factors," categorizes and describes non-technical risk management mechanisms the authors identified from interviews with information security managers reporting to an IT function. Quotations from the participating managers are provided as evidence for the importance of the mechanisms and how they are used to achieve a "balanced" socio-technical approach to information security.

In our final article for this issue, prolific outsourcing researcher Leslie Willcocks, and Catherine Griffiths of the outsourcing unit at the London School of Economics, argue that middle managers are key to achieving outsourcing success. Building on more than 100 case studies and prior published client and supplier capability models, the authors describe nine key middle management roles that must exist (and be retained) in client firms as well as up to a dozen middle management roles in supplier firms that should be assessed based on the client firm's objectives for an outsourcing arrangement. Embedded throughout the article are insights gained from recent offshore and BPO research in particular.

As this issue goes to press, articles are being finalized for the December 2010 *MISQE* issue on the theme of enterprise and industry applications of Web 2.0; the special issue editors and I look forward to presenting them to you—both online and in hardcopy form.

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