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Message from SIM

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MESSAGE FROM SIM

The term “social” has become quite a focus for Information Technology leaders, and also this issue of *MISQE*. I remember in 1980, the research finding of Cougar and Zawacki telling us that computer professionals have high growth needs, but low social needs. The internet, and perhaps some maturing, has even let us geeks get social!

In this issue, Rob Cross, of the University of Virginia, has shown via Organizational Network Analysis (ONA) that the social network in a corporation is much more effective than its hierarchical organizational structure. The *MISQE* article by Rob and his colleagues uses a case study of ONA that transforms disparate IT groups into a highly effective global functional unit.

Perhaps the most compelling case for societal success is the San Mateo County Emergency Services Network. They applied a cooperative requirements definition method to tackle tough interagency issues under life threatening situations. We thank the authors from Claremont Graduate University for documenting the EMS redesign initiative.

Even information security requires a socio-technical approach, according to Kayworth and Whitten. They demonstrate how security policy needs to reflect the culture and societal norms of the organization.

Middle managers are also stepping up to their role as value-added collaborators among outsourcing arrangements. Willcocks and Griffiths, from the London School of Economics, see them as the “glue” that holds organizations together.

Stay tuned for the December 2010 *MISQE* themed issue on social media within enterprise and industry contexts.

Come to think of it, SIM is a “society” by the virtue of its name, but also its actions! The overwhelming reason for SIM membership, according to surveys, is the ability to network among fellow IT leaders. *MISQE* contributes greatly to this networking objective. We genuinely appreciate all the volunteer efforts of academics and practitioners to share the wealth of knowledge *MISQE* has produced over the years.

The pre-ICIS 2010 SIM Academic Workshop is now accepting papers. The full-day event, set for Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis, will include invited and competitive paper presentations that focus

on the theme: *New IS Leadership Roles for a Digital World*. Learn more about submission deadlines and registration at the SIM and *MISQE* websites

Don't forget about SIM's yearly event, *SIMposium*—October 3-5 in Atlanta, GA at the OMNI Hotel. This year's program is filled with the top CIOs, senior IT executives and thought leaders from around the country, in and out of the SIM world. Note also this year's “thought leadership” session with academic authors presenting on research to be published in future *MISQE* issues. Visit the *SIMposium2010* website for details and registration.

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