MESSAGE FROM SIM

Much of this June 2010 issue is about *IT architecture*. So what exactly is it? My son-in-law is an architect of physical things and tries to explain to me what he does for a living, but it is hard for me to relate. That got me thinking about how tough it must be for others to understand IT architecture.

So I went to Wikipedia and found this: "*computer architecture is the conceptual design and fundamental operational structure of a computer system.*" Then I tried System architecture: "*there is no universally agreed definition of which aspect constitutes system architecture.*"

The enterprise architecture entry isn't much better: "*a rigorous description of the structure of an enterprise, its decomposition into subsystems, the relationships between the subsystems, the relationships with the external environment, the terminology to use, and the guiding principles for the design and evolution of an enterprise.*" So much for learning through definitions!

Thanks to the authors in this issue of *MISQE,* though, we get a chance to understand IT architecture from many different perspectives and based on live cases in industry: Global Business, Modular Enterprise, Investment Spend Optimization and Cloud Computing. I therefore recommend all these articles to you—and also suggest that you consider sharing them with others.

On a different note, SIM has revised its "architecture" for conducting business. After 30 years of mostly volunteer leadership, SIM has established a full-time President, and I am pleased to report that Wendell Jones has been selected as the first to fill this critical leadership position. Wendell comes with a very broad background, including as a CIO, professor, and business leader.

Wendell's positions while at Compaq included SVP of Technology Services, and Vice President Global Outsourcing Services. He was also a General Manager of the McDonnell Douglas Information Services Company, and Chair of the Computer Science Faculty at West Point. Wendell's most recent roles have been as an outsourcing consultant and as Professor of Management at the University of Southern Nevada.

His education includes a BS in education from the University of Arkansas, both an MBA and Ph.D. in business from the University of Georgia, and a post-doctoral fellowship in Computer Science at Cornell University.

Thanks go out to Leo Gilmore for serving as interim SIM President during the selection process. Leo helped to design the new governance of SIM and get the transition in gear.

I am also pleased to announce that SIM has appointed Dr. Mary R. Sumner as Academic Director on the Management Council. She is a Professor of Computer Management and Information Systems and Associate Dean for Executive & Continuing Education at Southern Illinois University. Mary is taking the reins from Jeanne Ross of MIT, who has devoted many volunteer hours to SIM and also *MISQE*. We offer Jeanne best wishes on her future endeavors.

Please reserve October 3-5, 2010, for SIM's Annual SIMposium, to be held in Atlanta. The theme is *The Charm of IT—Bringing People, Process & Technology Together*. We hope to see you there.

Ray Hoving
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