

Candidate for Chair

Margaret Lucas Loper
Georgia Tech Research Institute, Atlanta, GA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology, 2002, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Lab Chief Scientist, Georgia Tech Research Institute, Atlanta, GA, 2006 – Present;
Research Scientist, Georgia Tech Research Institute, Atlanta, GA, 1995 – Present;
Research Scientist, Institute for Simulation & Training, University of Central FL,
Orlando, FL, 1990 – 1995.

Professional Interest:

Modeling & Simulation; Distributed Systems; Internet of Things; Machine to Machine Trust;
Data Analytics.

ACM Activities:

Vice-Chair, SIGSIM, 2010 – 2016;
Secretary/Treasurer, SIGSIM, 2008 – 2010;
General Chair for the 1st SIGSIM - PADS Conference, SIGSIM, 2013;
Simulation Education Track Chair for WSC '11, '14 and '16, SIGSIM, 2016.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

America's Teachers @ I/ITSEC STEM program coordinator, Interservice/Industry Training
Simulation & Education Conference, 2009 – 2015;
Program Committee, SIMULTECH Conference, 2014 – 2015;
Vice-Chair, Simulation Interoperability Workshop, 2011 – 2013.

Awards Received:

I/ITSEC Best Tutorial, 2012;
Women in Technology (WIT) Woman of the Year in Technology, 2010;
DIS-SISO Transition Team, Award for Service, 1997;
Distributed Interactive Simulation Award for Service, 1995.

STATEMENT

I'm honored to run for the Chair of SIGSIM. I've been a member of ACM for 13 years and involved in M&S for more than 30 years. Over that time, I've held leadership positions in SIGSIM and SISO, and supported many conferences in various roles including

SIGSIM-PADS, WSC, SIMULTECH, SIMUTools, and I/ITSEC. My experience in these positions has prepared me to serve you, and SIGSIM, as Chair. Over the last 4 years, SIGSIM has improved communications by reaching out on social media, updating content on the MSKR and creating blogs on novel M&S applications. We even created a flagship conference, SIGSIM-PADS! Moving forward we need a strategy to attract new members, especially where M&S is on the rise. This includes areas like the Internet of Things and Intelligent Transportation. And with new M&S application areas comes the need for education. Looking at education from all perspectives - STEM, academic programs and professional education - is critical to shaping the nation's future workforce for tomorrow's global marketplace. As Chair, I will work to improve communication, attract new members, and enhance the effectiveness of SIGSIM in promoting M&S education.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

George Riley
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Georgia Tech, 2001, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Faculty, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, 2010 – 2016;

Graduate Research Assistant, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, 1996 – 2001.

Professional Interest:

Computer Simulation; Computer Networks; Computer Architecture; Computer Programming; Distributed Simulation.

ACM Activities:

Vice-Chair, SIGSIM, 2005 – 2007.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

IEEE Senior Member, 2013 – 2016.

STATEMENT

I look forward to raising awareness within the Computer Science and Computer Engineering community about the promise of large-scale distributed simulation for various physical systems. I will use my considerable experience in management and inter-personal skills to convince the community of the value of DES. Further, I will work closely with others in this community to raise the awareness and quality of the relatively new SIGSIM/PADS workshop.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Andreas Tolk
MITRE Corporation, Hampton, VA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of the Federal Armed Forces, Munich, 1995, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Computer Science Principal, MITRE Corporation, Hampton, VA, 2015 – Present;
Chief Scientist, SimIS Inc., Portsmouth, VA, 2013 – 2015;
Professor (Systems Engineering, M&S), Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, 2006 – 2013.

Professional Interest:

Interoperability and Composability; Simulation Standards; Conceptual Modeling;
Big Data and Deep Learning for M&S; Executable Architectures.

ACM Activities:

Secretary and Treasurer, SIGSIM Board of Directors, 2010 – Present;
ACM SIGSIM Representative, Winter Simulation Conference Advisory Board, 2013 – Present.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Vice President Membership, Society for Modeling and Simulation (SCS), 2012 – Present;
Secretary, SCS Board of Directors, 2011 – 2012;
Executive Committee Member, Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization (SISO),
2003 – 2009.

Awards Received:

SCS: Distinguished Professional Achievement Award, 2014;
SCS: Outstanding Professional Contribution Award, 2012;
SISO: Technical Merit Award, 2010;
Frank Batten Excellence in Research Award, Old Dominion University, 2008.

STATEMENT

I serve on the SIGSIM Board of Directors since 2010 as the secretary-treasurer. I was able to learn what is needed from a board member and various positions, as I had to support chair and vice chair on various occasions (like conducting the ACM SIGSIM Meetings in 2013 and 2015). Working the budget allowed me to gain insight in all activities supported by ACM SIGSIM, as they all show up in the budget. My vision for ACM SIGSIM is that I want to pursue continuous growth of our group and strengthen SIGSIM within the ACM as well as in

comparison with our sister simulation societies. We are providing excellent services, but we have to communicate this better, in particular to our students. As I helped making PADS a true ACM SIGSIM conference, I will continue to support the growth and success of PADS as one of the go-to conferences when it comes to leading edge research on modeling and simulation challenges. I am convinced that M&S should be its own discipline with science, engineering, and application domains. ACM SIGSIM must play its role in shaping this M&S Discipline to strengthen the role of simulation.

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Denis Gracanin
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 1994, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 2006 – Present;
Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 1999 – 2006;
Research Scientist, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA, 1994 – 1999.

Professional Interest:

Virtual reality; Distributed simulation; Human-computer interaction; Internet of Things;
Visual analytics.

ACM Activities:

General Chair, 11th International Conference on 3D Web Technology, 2006.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, 1988 – Present;
Member, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, 1988 – Present;
Member, American Society for Engineering Education, 2004 – Present.

Awards Received:

ACM Senior Member, 2011;
ACM Recognition of Service Award, 2006;
IEEE Senior Member, 2003.

STATEMENT

As a long time ACM member (since 1988), I can truly appreciate the amazing membership growth and expansion of professional development opportunities for computer scientists in all fields. SIGSIM has been an important part of that growth and has contributed to the development and dissemination of theory, methodology and applications related to modeling and simulation. The Winter Simulation Conference is an excellent example of SIGSIM activities that foster professional development and dissemination of ideas. I have frequently attended this conference and have always enjoyed the exchange of ideas and the sense of community. I would like to further promote and expand this sense of community outside the conference.

SIGSIM's finances are sound and support many activities. I will make every effort to continue this trend and to leverage conferences and other sources of income to help SIGSIM to start new initiatives. I have served in various capacities (from a webmaster to a conference general chair) at ACM and other professional organizations (IEEE). I believe my experience and skills are a good match for the position of Secretary-Treasurer and that I can effectively contribute to the further growth and development of SIGSIM.

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Kara A. Olson
Woodruff Scientific, Inc., Seattle, WA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Old Dominion University, 2014, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Computer Scientist, Woodruff Scientific, Inc., Seattle, WA, 2013 – 2015;
Research Assistant, NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA, 2010 – 2012;
Instructor, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, 2010 – 2011.

Professional Interest:

Modeling & Simulation; Discrete Event Simulation; Code Analysis; Model Understanding;
High Performance Computing.

ACM Activities:

Chair, Old Dominion University ACM Student Chapter, 1995 – 2003;
Vice Chair, Old Dominion University ACM Student Chapter, 1994 – 1995.

Awards Received:

SIGSIM Winter Simulation Conference Student Travel Award, 2014;
SIGSIM PADS Student Travel Award, 2013;
I/ITSEC Doctoral Student Award, 2008;
VMASC (Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center) Fellowship, 2008.

STATEMENT

I am honored to run for Secretary-Treasurer after having been encouraged to do so by a pair of former SIGSIM Chairs.

I am glad to have student chapter experience, having been elected Vice Chair of the Old Dominion University ACM student chapter for a year, then Chair for eight, until choosing to step down due to research commitments. Indeed, some of that time also included Treasurer duties, as ours was unexpectedly deployed.

Additionally, I have reasonable familiarity with SIGSIM, as I am a usual SIGSIM business meeting attendee – and this year, recorded the minutes by request.

I have been fortunate to present at nine SIGSIM-sponsored conferences over my graduate career; SIGSIM occasionally supported my travel, and without that assistance, several of those presentations – with crucial feedback and accompanying guided influence – would not have been possible. I continue to be thankful and would appreciate the opportunity to be useful to SIGSIM.