FROM THE PRESIDENT – RUSSELL WOOTEN

Hello to all members and friends of WINFORMS.

This is a very special issue of Feedback. This issue is dedicated to the 2006 Capital Science Conferences. WINFORMS has teamed up with the Institute of Industrial Engineers; National Capital Chapter for this event. Our next planned FEEDBACK will also feature additional conferences. Please let me know in advance of any conference that you are aware of especially if you plan to attend or give a presentation. We will feature your presentation.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Doug Samuelson. Doug, our current Vice President and President Elect has recently taken a new position at the Homeland Security Institute. Initial reports are positive. Doug is enjoying his new job and all is well with our homeland.

You may notice that we have a number of open committee positions. The last time I look in my Webster Dictionary, it listed opportunity as, “any open or unfilled committee officer or committee position on the board of directors of WINFORMS.” I guess Mr. Webster understood the value and rewards of volunteering one’s time on a respected and well run organization.

Currently, we have the following committee positions opened; FEEDBACK and Short Courses. Feedback is of course this publication. The FEEDBACK publisher is not responsible for the article’s content but just for the layout and distribution. Short Courses could be joint efforts with other societies or just WINFORMS events. We don’t have them every year, but we could.

As long as we are speaking about opportunity; it is that time again to think about running for a Board of Director position. We are looking for WINFORMS candidates for Vice President/President Elect, Treasurer and two Trustees. The Vice President position is actually a three year commitment; Vice President, President and Immediate Past President. The Treasurer and the Trustees are two year terms.

Please consider volunteering for one of the open committee positions or running for one of the board of director positions. Three years ago I volunteered to run for a board position. And not only am I now your current president but I am also a 2006 Franz Edelman Award Competition Finalist. Good things happen to those you volunteer.

Please consider. Thanks,

Russell Wooten, DHS
WINFORMS OFFICER ELECTIONS

Please consider running for the following WINFORMS officer positions:

**Vice President/President Elect**
**Treasurer**
**Trustee** (two positions)

The Vice President position is a three year commitment; Vice President, President and Immediate Past President.
The Treasurer and the Trustees are two year terms which will run from May 2006 through April 2008.

Please send your nominations to Doug Samuelson our current Vice President/President Elect at samuelsondoug@yahoo.com.

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Monthly Technical Program Location

This year the regular meeting location for our programs is at; **General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, 8th Floor Main Conference Room, 1400 Key Blvd., Suite 1200, Arlington, VA 22209**

We request that any non-US Citizens who plan on attending any of our programs at General Dynamics to contact Russ Vane in advance. This is required to facilitate pre-approved access to the secure facility.
This year the Washington Academy of Science (WAS) will hold its bi-annual conference on the 25th and 26th of March. The weekend program is $25 for students, $75 for Society and Affiliated Society members and $125 for all non-members. This year WINFORMS has joined forces with the National Capital Chapter of the Institute for Industrial Engineers to bring the best presentations to the conference.

The Washington Academy of Science 2006 Capital Science will take place at the Conference Center of the National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia. NSF is located in the Ballston area of North Arlington between Wilson Blvd and Fairfax Dr., one block south of the Ballston-Marymount University Metro stop on the orange line. For specific registration information please refer to www.washacadsci.org/capsci2006/index.htm. For general program information please refer to www.washacadsci.org

The following is a preview of what you will see by attending this conference.

The Origins of Hypergame Theory: Why Decision Theory and Game Theory Rarely Capture the Actual Decision Problem

Hypergame Theory invented in 1979 by Peter G. Bennett is re-emerging as an analytic tool in post-9/11 strategic reasoning. Attendees will receive a brief history and the properties of this theory which promotes thinking about the competitor’s mindset, information, and constraints when generating and choosing options. This work borrows heavily from Dr. Vane’s doctoral dissertation at GMU in Fall 2000. Dr. Griffith will discuss how hypergames could decrease cognitive errors, such as decision-maker “confirmation bias.”

A Step by Step Guide to Hypergame Theory

Hypergame theory is discussed as an approach to account for uncertainty, good and bad luck, the possible contexts of competitors, how to collect evidence about competitors, and how to incorporate the inherent fragility or robustness of different options. A stock market example will be explained that considers when to accept or eschew growth oriented portfolios. The advantages and caveats of hypergame theory are revealed.

A Practical Example about Hypergame Theory, Reasoning about New US Policies Concerning Cuba

Hypergame theory has great power in structuring reasoning about future actions and policies. In this session, attendees are invited to participate in a highly interactive exploration of the Pros, Cons, and Emergent Properties of a Hypothetical Shift in US strategy that involves opening Cuba to US tourist trade, investment and a new era of cooperation; and some potential pitfalls.

Hypergame Theory, Participant Practice

Attendees will be challenged to attempt to set up a hypergame to explore their own domains of expertise and to gain hands-on experience about hypergame theory. Participants will receive paper and pencil templates and an excel spreadsheet on CD-ROM that aids the process. Ten doctoral dissertation topics will be revealed in a handout that can be discussed during lunch.
Advanced social science methods produce models and other analytical structures whose complexity approaches that of the actual systems of interest. For such analyses, traditional methods of validation are often ineffective. Also, in some cases, theoretically sound validation experiments are ethically indefensible. These difficulties force us to reconstitute our methods of assessing model quality, tracing these methods back to philosophical fundamentals.

In particular, with reference to examples from current social science, we reexamine such questions as: What is evidence? How compelling is a piece of evidence? How is the value of a piece of evidence affected by context? How do we recognize inappropriate specifications of context and other overly restrictive assumptions? What degree of interaction with a complex system (violating traditional notions of maintaining perpetual separation between observer and observed) is appropriate to understand sufficiently how the system works? What degree of uncertainty must be accepted as intrinsic to the system we observe, and/or to the process of observing it? To what extent can and should we use our understanding of complex social systems to predict how our analyses will be received? Most important, as we move beyond conventional physical science answers to these questions, how do we best advance social science and still maintain scientific objectivity and credibility?

These programs are co-presented by Dr. Russ Vane and Dr. Douglas Griffith. The last program is also co-presented by Dr. Doug Samuelson. Dr. Russell Vane is a Senior Researcher at General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems. Dr. Douglas Griffith is a Principal Cognitive Psychologist at General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems. Dr. Douglas A. Samuelson is a Senior Analyst at the Homeland Security Institute in Arlington, Virginia; President of InfoLogix, Inc.; and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the in-coming President of WINFORMS for 2006 and the popular author of the ORacle column in ORMS Today.
WINFORMS members were excited to participate in the Dinner and Symposium in honor of Saul Gass’ eightieth birthday. The banquet was a well attended by luminaries from the Washington, DC Metro community. As always Saul was charming, witty, and energetic. His family presented heart-warming recollections of this wonderful man. We are fortunate that he spoke to WINFORMS members this year in honor of George Dantzig’s wonderful career in August. Our thanks to Ruth Zuba and the Organizing Committee: Frank Alt, Michael Fu, chair; and Bruce Golden. WINFORMS officers: President Russell Wooten, VP Doug Samuelson; and members: Debbie Prigal, Rich Soland, and Russ Vane; represented us.

As a reminder: Saul Gass is the Dean’s Lifetime Achievement Professor in the Smith Business School; Past President of the Operations Research Society of America; recipient of ORSA’s Kimball Medal, INFORMS’s Expository Writing Award and the Military Operations Research Society’s Jacinto Steinhardt Award; a Fellow of INFORMS; and author of the texts Linear Programming (fifth edition), An Illustrated Guide to Linear Programming and Decision Making, Models and Algorithms

Symposium Speakers included:
Professor Alfred Blumstein - Carnegie Mellon
Title of Talk: In the Beginning: Saul Gass and Other Pioneers

Professor Karla Hoffman - George Mason
Title of Talk: Thinking about Communications Auctions like Saul Gass

Professor Richard Larson - MIT
Title of Talk: Looking Backwards, Looking Forwards: Reflections on Definitions of Operations Research by Morse and Kimball

Professor Thomas Magnanti - MIT
Title of Talk: Learning from the Master: Saul Gass, Linear Programming and the OR Profession

Dr. Christoph Witzgall
Title of Talk: Recovering Circles and Spheres

Professor Rakesh Vohra - Northwestern
Title of Talk: Predicting the Unpredictable

Professor Bruce Golden – University of Maryland
Title of Talk: Benjamin Franklin, the first American OR Practitioner
Individual Membership Information

Remember to renew your membership for 2006. Dues are $25.00 per individual standard membership, $12.50 for students and senior citizens, for each calendar year, payable to WINFORMS. Address to WINFORMS, P.O. Box 23257 Washington, D.C. 20026-3257. Non-students may renew for up to three years. If you have any questions about individual membership, please email winforms@mail.informs.org or contact any WINFORMS officer.

Institutional Membership Information

Remember to renew your institutional membership for 2006. Dues are $500.00 per institution for each calendar year, payable to WINFORMS. Address to WINFORMS, P.O. Box 23257 Washington, D.C. 20026-3257. If you have any questions about individual membership, please email winforms@mail.informs.org or contact Russ Vane, Russell Wooten or Doug Samuelson.

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