

Welcome

Welcome to the 35th International Conference of the System Dynamics Society. This year, the conference returns to the Cambridge-Boston area, just minutes away from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where Jay Forrester developed the field of System Dynamics.

This year we mark two important transitions in the history of System Dynamics. We celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the field, and we mark the passing of Jay Forrester, who died in November at age 98. We will celebrate both our anniversary and the life of a remarkable man with plenary presentations and exhibits.

Conference participants this year come from all over the world. Starting with the PhD Colloquium on Sunday, through plenary, parallel, and poster sessions Monday through Wednesday, and Thursday's workshops, you will have the opportunity to participate in conversations and presentations showcasing the best System Dynamics work of leading academics and practitioners.

The program committee, thread chairs, reviewers, and Society staff have worked hard to create a program consisting of the best quality, state of the art work in System Dynamics. The online schedule gives direct access to brief author bios, photos, and presentation slides. The program schedule also includes exhibits, modeling assistance workshops, panel discussions, special sessions, a student colloquium, and Society business meetings.

There will be several special events at the conference. The Monday morning plenary session, "Remembering Jay: A Life on the Frontier. System Dynamics at Sixty," will be chaired by conference program chairs, John Sterman and Nelson Repenning. On Tuesday, at the Convened Discussant Sessions, facilitators will provide advice to help authors improve their research and papers. During the morning break on Wednesday, there will be a presentation "Classic Case Studies in System Dynamics--a Fireside Chat with Ken Cooper." Also on Wednesday, a special Education Day event, "What's Happening in Pre-College Education in the United States?" will be presented during the lunch break.

During the conference there will also be time for social and professional interaction in a relaxed and fascinating setting; a Newcomer Orientation on Sunday, a Welcome Reception on Sunday hosted by the System Dynamics Groups of many universities, the Poster Symposium with a walking buffet on Monday evening, and the Conference Banquet, with musical entertainment on Tuesday. In addition, on Sunday, the Family-Guest Lounge will be a meeting place for spouses, significant others, travel companions, and family members to gather, and make plans to do fun things in Cambridge-Boston. This will be a great opportunity for them to make new friends and renew acquaintances; we welcome them to the conference!

This year, 28 Thread Chairs, supported by several hundred volunteer reviewers, screened and commented on around 433 submissions. In addition, several dozen volunteers worked many hours to ensure a successful conference; without their commitment our conference would be impossible. A very special thank you goes to all who helped.

In addition to all our sponsors, we are also very fortunate this year to have a number of conference partners: *Greenwood Strategic Advisors AG; PA Consulting Group; Edward B. Roberts, MIT Sloan School of Management; and the System Dynamics Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.* We sincerely appreciate the enthusiasm and support of all our sponsors.

We have confidence you will find the conference stimulating and rewarding. We ask that you bring to our attention anything that may help us to ensure the success of the current conference, as well as future ones. Thank you for attending!

Best wishes from the conference organizers,

Nelson Repenning, John Sterman, Jack Homer, Hazhir Rahmandad, and Roberta Spencer