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Message from SIM

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The annual survey of key issues for IT executives is a keystone in the relationship of business and academia. The process goes something like this:

1. Academics prepare and conduct the survey (many thanks to Jerry Luftman, who has been doing this for the past several years).

2. IT leaders in business provide the input by completing the survey.

3. Academics analyze the results, make historical comparisons, and provide meaningful case examples.

4. IT leaders focus their energy on the key issues that have been expressed by their peers.

5. Academics focus new research and education around the key issues, thus helping to resolve them.

This process would not occur if it weren't for the sponsorship and involvement of SIM and the volunteer participation of business and academic SIM members.

The number one issue for 2007: "Attracting, developing, and retaining IT professionals" is one that needs significant attention within both the business and academic community. Our field requires the constant re-skilling of the IT professional. This necessitates a concerted effort to update and deliver undergraduate, graduate, and professional development curriculums.

Despite some claims to the contrary, a shortage of skilled IT professionals continues to plague our industry. The irony is that as more and more of the "IT baby-boomers" retire, fewer students are selecting IT-related majors. Business and academic leaders have a shared responsibility to increase student enrollments.

MISQE has now produced its 100th article since its start about five years ago. Please visit http://www.misqe.org/topics.html for the list of articles by topic. The journal has been true to its mission of improving practice thru relevant, rigorous, and readable academic research. SIM is pleased to be the primary sponsor since the inception of *MISQE* and look forward to its continued contributions to our field.

Please join us for SIMposium 08 in Orlando, Fla., November 9 – 12. You can be sure that a number of the issues mentioned in the SIM survey and *MISQE* articles will be covered. You can contact SIM Headquarters at (312) 527-6734 or visit www.SIMnet.org.

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