

## Message from the SIGSAM Chair

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Dear SIGSAM Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the two ACM meetings that I recently attended on behalf of SIGSAM in New York City:

- September 30, 2013, SIG Leader Orientation meeting
- October 1, 2013 SGB<sup>1</sup> meeting.

### 1 SIG Leader Orientation meeting

During the SIG Leader Orientation meeting, the participants had the chance to hear introductory remarks from Erik Altman (SGB Chair) and John White, (ACM CEO). Subsequently, Erik Altman spoke on the topic of the Volunteer Structure of the ACM. He emphasized the SIG Video Repositories initiative and focused on the example of SIGSIM that has created a 1000+ simulation-related videos on their webpage <http://www.acm-sigsim-mskr.org/Videos/videos.htm> . Among the benefits of such a repository are that it represents a good value for members, could be used to entice more people to join a SIG. In addition, the repository could use automated video mining capability. I thought this is a very interesting initiative and would like to solicit opinions from SIGSAM Members on whether we could organize a similar initiative within SIGSAM.

During the second part of the SIG Leader Orientation meeting I attended four workshops: (1) Finance, (2) Marketing/Membership, (3) Publications, (4) Information Systems. Here is a summary of some interesting aspects of these workshops:

1. ACM Tech Pack initiative <http://techpack.acm.org/> . Production of annotated bibliographies on specific areas compiled by experts. Examples include the Cloud Computing, the Parallel Computing and the Security Tech Packs.
2. ACM Learning Webinars <http://learning.acm.org/webinar/> . Started in 2012, these video presentations on topics of interest to a wide range of computing professionals are non-vendor-specific and open to everyone.
3. ACM Distinguished Speakers Program <http://dsp.acm.org/> . Potential speakers can be nominated and ACM covers the cost of transportation for the speaker to travel an event.
4. ACM Books <http://books.acm.org/> . A new ACM book series has been created, in collaboration with Morgan & Claypool Publishers based in San Francisco.

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<sup>1</sup>SIG Governing Board

## 2 SIG Governing Board meeting - ACM-W

During the SGB meeting there were several interesting presentations, but i would like to focus on the presentation on **ACM-W**, <http://women.acm.org/> the ACM organization whose mission statement reads:

ACM-W supports, celebrates, and advocates internationally for the full engagement of women in all aspects of the computing field, providing a wide range of programs and services to ACM members and working in the larger community to advance the contributions of technical women.



On of the several interesting initiatives sponsored by ACM-W is the ACM-W Athena Lectures award. Athena Lectures celebrate outstanding women researchers who have made fundamental contributions to computer science. Each year ACM will honor a preeminent woman computer scientist as the Athena Lecturer. Speakers are nominated by SIG officers. The Athena Lecturer will give a one-hour invited talk at an ACM conference determined by the speaker and the SIG which nominated her. A video of the talk will appear on the ACM website. The award includes travel expenses to the meeting and a \$ 10000 honorarium. Financial support for the 2008-2009 through 2014-2015 Athena Lecturers, is being provided by Google.

I believe that SIGSAM should try to nominate one of its members for the ACM-W Athena Lectures award and would like at this point to solicit suggestions for potential qualified candidates.

The minutes of the above two meetings as well as overheads of workshop presenters can be found on-line at <http://www.acm.org/sigs/sgb/minutes> and I would encourage you to browse these materials for more information on ACM initiatives and more details on how these are potentially relevant to SIGSAM.

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