

# Association for Information Systems Southern African Chapter (AISSAC)

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHAPTER OF THE AIS

Newsletter: September 2019

In this newsletter we announce the seventh annual AISSAC Seminar, introduce our keynote speaker and share highlights from last year's AISSAC Seminar. We also announce the call for nomination for our (1) AIS Student Chapter Champion and (2) IS Women Network Champion. Finally, we are pleased to report on the nomination of Brenda Scholtz and Carina de Villiers as members of the ACM IS2020 curriculum design taskforce.

## AISSAC Seminar 2019

The 2019 AISSAC Seminar will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 preceding the 2019 SAICSIT Conference in Skukuza. This year the seminar's theme is "Digital Transformation".

Digital Transformation relates to the use of digital solutions and innovations to solve traditional problems and change how businesses operate. Through digital transformation, cultures and customer experiences evolve in response to changing business needs and market requirements.

Digital Transformation and Disruptive Innovation are trending and relevant phenomena within the Information Systems discipline and has implications for practitioners, researchers and educators.

Our keynote, Prof Robert Winter (University of St. Gallen), will present on the topic of "Disruptive Innovation".

**Robert Winter** is Professor of Business Informatics at the University of St. Gallen (HSG) and Director of the Institute for Business Informatics at the HSG. He was the founding director of the Executive Master of Business Engineering at the HSG and the academic director of the PhD program in Management at the HSG School of Management. After twelve years as a research associate and chairperson at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main and the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, he teaches and researches since 1996 at the University of St. Gallen. In addition to basic research on the methodology of design-oriented research, he works mainly in the areas of enterprise architecture management and control of large (transformation and IT) projects.

Other key topics to be addressed include:

- Disruptive Innovation "platforms" – **Prof Aurora Gerber** (*University of Pretoria*)
- Disruptive Innovation platforms: evidence in the industry – **Isak Marais** (*CEO of Bramhope Group*)
- A critical perspective of disruptive innovation – **Prof Kirstin Krauss** (*University of South Africa*)
- Disruptive Innovation and the implication on teaching and learning in Africa – **Prof Machdel Matthee** (*University of Pretoria*)
- Innovative approaches in teaching and learning: UP MakerSpace – **Sean Kruger** (*University of Pretoria*)

## AISSAC Seminar 2018

The 2018 AISSAC Seminar was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 in Port Elizabeth. The theme of the seminar was ***Modelling in Information Systems Research and Development***. Our first keynote speaker, ***Dr Quentin Williams***, the Strategic Research Manager of the CSIR Mareka Institute, gave an interesting talk on Model-based Artificial Intelligence. Our second keynote speaker, ***Dr Dominik Bork***, from the Research Group Knowledge Engineering, University of Vienna, shared his insights on Modeling and Metamodelling platforms with the audience. The second part of the seminar was dedicated to a workshop on OMILAB Metamodelling tools.

Another highlight of the seminar was the Panel Discussion on *The Africanisation of the Information Systems Syllabus*. The panel members and the audience shared thought-provoking ideas on how to transform and Africanise the Information Systems curriculum and better engage with students in this day and age on the African continent.

Last but not least, we had the Honour of presenting the ***Lifetime Achievement Award*** to ***Professor Carina de Villiers*** to recognise her extensive contributions to the field of Information Systems, both in Southern Africa and worldwide.



Attendees of the AISSAC 2018 seminar

## Call for nomination for AISSAC Student Chapter President

*“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He/[she] is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.” -Ronald Reagan*

The Student chapter was formed in 2014, but strives to provide numerous benefits to its members. Not only do members of the association gain important insights into the information systems field, but they also gain world-wide recognition through competitions and awards programs. The chapter strives to provide its members with professional development and career opportunities.

The chapter mission is to promote the study and utilization of information systems through programs of professional development, social networking, and community development.

### **Benefits of the AIS Student Chapter**

The chapter benefits include, but not limited to:

- i) Increase the visibility and prestige of affiliate departments both on and off campuses
- ii) Access shared resources via AIS digital library
- iii) Share best practices with an international network of student organizations
- iv) Network with other experts in the IS field
- v) Student leadership development
- vi) Keep students engaged and on their way to graduation!

One of the main benefits for students joining the Student chapter is to gain a major competitive advantage in the IT/IS/CS fields. Students can benefit from the chapter by getting involved with the professional world, networking and gaining insights into the IS field. This chapter has the potential to provide students with opportunities to further themselves in their careers before they enter the job market, through the AIS annual creativity in IS competitions.

We believe membership in a professional organization is vital to students' assimilation into the profession. It enhances their career. The chapter is interested in helping students embark on a professional career, as opposed to simply finding a job

### **President Responsibilities:**

The responsibilities of the Student Chapter President include, but not limited to the following:

- i) To organise numerous chapter events and presentations.
- ii) To continue recruiting new members and grow the chapter through the use of social media, word-of-mouth marketing and attending student organization fairs, and establish the organization across the community. The group may communicate through multiple channels such as Facebook, Twitter and its own website.
- iii) To create value for members through events promoting professional development.
- iv) To bringing awareness to IS and IT programs both on and off campuses.
- v) To further develop skills and extend the knowledge beyond what student members may receive in a classroom setting.
- vi) To organise and/or attend workshop programs whereby students can sit down with the IT professionals and experts in focus groups
- vii) To distribute information and news through a variety of channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp, Snapchat, email and more.

- viii) To provides opportunities for student members to connect with one another, to build deep relationships that assist them in their academic and research works, in study projects and develop into long-term professional networks.
- ix) To solidify leadership roles, that will enable the chapter to operate effectively and professionally.
- x) To increase student engagement and provide more IS related resources among the IS student members population.
- xi) To ensure that the chapter is in good standing with the annual AIS Student membership subscriptions.

**AISSAC would like to extend a Call for Nomination for its Student Chapter President.**

We are looking for a passionate and motivated individual to coordinate and manage the AIS Southern Africa Student Chapter, currently registered under UNISA School of Computing, an AISSAC affiliate institution. The role of the Student Chapter president are listed, but not limited to the above list.

The AIS Southern Africa Student Chapter President will work closely with the AISSAC Executive board to help devise and implement various initiatives, in line with the above-mentioned expectations.

If you would like to nominate a student, please contact Prof. Maureen Tanner (mc.tanner@uct.ac.za) and include a brief justification for the nomination.

We will then review all nominations and select the best candidate.

**The deadline for receipt of nominations is the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2019**

## Call for nomination AISSAC IS Women Network Champion

The IS women's network provides physical and virtual networking spaces where female academics can share relevant and helpful information about the IS profession, and offers a support to female junior academics and PhD students through a mentoring scheme.

The IS women's network is underrepresented in Southern Africa. The AIS Southern African Chapter wishes to extend the network into the Southern African region through promoting networking and a system of mentorship for academics in the region.

### **AISSAC would like to extend a Call for Nomination for an IS Women Network Champion.**

We are looking for a passionate and motivated individual to coordinate and manage the IS Women Network in the Southern Africa. The role of the champion would be to:

- Identify and implement innovative initiatives to support and develop young female academics in the IS discipline
- To devise mentoring programmes for young female academics in the IS discipline
- To liaise with female students from the Southern African Student chapter to better understand and meet their needs
- To help develop a supportive and influential network of female IS academics in Southern Africa

The IS Women Network Champion would work closely with the AISSAC Executive board to help devise and implement various initiatives, in line with the above-mentioned requirements.

If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, please contact Dr Sunet Eybers (sunet.eybers@up.ac.za) and include a brief justification for the nomination.

We will then review all nominations and select the best candidate.

**The deadline for receipt of nominations is the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2019**

## ACM IS2020 curriculum design task force

AISSAC would like to extend its warmest CONGRATULATIONS to Prof Brenda Scholtz and Prof Carina de Villiers, who have been selected to be on the task force for creating the new ACM IS2020 International Curricula standards.

We would also like to congratulate Prof Alta van der Merwe who has been appointed as critical reader for the task force.

These are very prestigious appointments and we are proud to have three representatives from Southern Africa on this task force.