



MSSANZ NEWSLETTER

January 2011

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MODSIM 2011 Congress Sustaining our future: understanding and living with uncertainty

**Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
12 - 16 December 2011**

**Scientific Program Co-Chairs: Bob Anderssen, Dora Marinova
Convenor: Felix Chan**

CALL FOR PAPERS & SESSIONS

<http://www.mssanz.org.au/modsim2011/>

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 11 April 2011



MODSIM2011 Key Dates

- Deadline for abstracts:
11 April 2011
- Deadline for full paper
submission: 11 July 2011
- Deadline for early bird
registration fee:
12 August 2011
- Deadline for lodgement
of final paper:
10 October 2011

The 19th MODSIM Congress will be held in Perth, Western Australia, from 12 - 16 December 2011 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. (PCEC).

The PCEC is a world class meeting venue situated in the heart of Perth city on the Swan River.

Planning for the Congress is well underway with more than 70 sessions proposed. The Congress Streams, to which session proposals and papers can be submitted, are:

Applied and Computational Mathematics

Roger Braddock, Griffith University

Biological Systems

Bob Anderssen, CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences

Computer Sciences

Robert Argent, Bureau of Meteorology

Economic and Financial Systems

Michael McAleer, Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL

Les Oxley, University of Canterbury, NZ

Environment and Ecology

Andre Zenger, CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences

Global Change

Janette Lindesay, The Australian National University

Participatory Decision Making and Modelling Social Systems

Blair Nancarrow, The Australian National University

Planning and Policy

Geoff Syme, Edith Cowan University

Water Resources

Francis Chiew, CSIRO Land and Water



Program Chairs' Report on MODSIM 2011

We would like to draw members' attention to some important deadlines including: the Abstract Submission Deadline of 11 April 2011 and the Paper Submission Deadline of 11 July 2011.

The practice of including a one-page abstract for each paper in a printed volume of abstracts will be continued. Abstracts allow authors to communicate details of their research findings to delegates.

Fully-reviewed seven-page paper proceedings will be provided on CD ROMs to all delegates upon registration in Perth. Papers will be made available for downloading from the MSSANZ website following the Congress.

An electronic Congress Brochure is available at <http://www.mssanz.org.au/modsim2011/>

under 'Brochure', on the home page. We encourage you to download this and distribute it widely amongst your colleagues and students. Alternatively we can send you any number of hard copies.

We are keen to obtain feedback or suggestions from MSSANZ members to ensure the success of MODSIM 2011.

Finally, we look forward to your involvement in the Congress as delegates, paper presenters and/or session organisers. It's bound to be a great forum to learn about each other's modelling and simulation endeavours, to exchange ideas, to catch up with old friends, and to make new friends in Perth.

Bob Anderssen
Dora Marinova
Felix Chan

President's Report

The MSSANZ Office and Management Committee welcome new members to the Society and send our best wishes to all members for 2011.

It is pleasing to report that preparations for MODSIM 2011 in Perth next December are progressing well. Already we have over 70 sessions described on our website. Our Organising Committee led by Convenor Felix Chan and our Program Committee, chaired by Bob Anderssen and Dora Marinova, have been tireless in assuring that the next biennial meeting is a resounding success. By the way, members are welcome to propose other sessions to

felix.chan@cbs.curtin.edu.au but please do so as soon as possible.

In the newsletter you will also find profiles of our 2009/10 Award winners. The MSSANZ Management Committee is particularly pleased with the quality of our Early Career Researchers and students attending MODSIM meetings. We had over 100 students participate at MODSIM2009 and hope to eclipse that number in Perth.

Our Web-based Conference Management Tool is being revised and I would like to thank Peter Manger and Andrew Hicks for working on this. Thanks also to our MSSANZ Office Manager, Mikaela Giri.

Among several duties, she has been responsible for the production of this newsletter and coordination of our Organising and Program Committees for the Perth meeting.

Several session organizers are starting to organize special journal issues for their session. While we will not have a Special Issue of the Society's main publishing organ, Environmental Modelling and Software (EMS), emanating from MODSIM 2011, authors will be welcome to submit revised versions of their Congress Proceedings papers to the journal. If you do so, please indicate in the covering letter uploaded to <http://ees.elsevier.com/envsoft/> and in a footnote on the first page of the paper that "A preliminary version of this work was presented at MODSIM2011." And I will be happy to offer advice on the focus of any revisions to ensure it meets the aims and scope of EMS. Looking forward to meeting you in Perth.



Tony Jakeman - President

Report on MODSIM09/18th World IMACS Congress Cairns, 13-17 July 2009 Australia

<http://mssanz.org.au/modsim09/>



A tropically warm and sunny mid-winter week greeted MODSIM'09, which was held at the Cairns Convention Centre, and attracted almost 700 delegates. It was run as a joint meeting with the 18th World Congress of the International Association for Mathematics and Computers in Simulation (IMACS), with this being the first of their congresses to be held in the southern hemisphere.

Sunday evening saw the pre-conference ice-breaker, at three different venues (catering for alternate tastes) spread along the Cairns waterfront. The conference opened on Monday with a welcome from a representative of the traditional owners. Each day started with a plenary speaker, after which delegates broke into eleven parallel sessions, which were needed to cover the 684 papers in total. With 24 papers, agricultural systems was the largest single session. However it was the usual MSSANZ disciplines of environmental modelling, hydrology and econometrics, with multiple sessions for each, which tended to dominate the program.

Once again, it was largely the hard work put in by the session organisers which led to the congress success. They advertised, organised, cajoled, refereed, and chased up researchers in their discipline, and (for the most part) also chaired their sessions. As a small token they were taken out to dinner at

the casino, however they deserve our sincere thanks, and those of all society members, for all their efforts. Similarly, the ANU crew, and Lachlan Newham in particular, are to be thanked for their continuing efforts. They ensured the web-based system was enhanced, enabling all registrations and papers to be handled with a minimum of fuss.

The Cairns Convention Centre, along with their very professional staff, proved pivotal for the success of the conference. They excelled at managing the logistics of downloading and handling so many presentations, catering for so many participants, and problem-solving – they even found a working OHP-projector for one of the mathematicians.

As always, the social scene was in many ways as memorable as the content of the conference. A good deal of networking was done during the breakout day, on the way out to the reef, or up to the rainforests, or even on the golf courses or in white-water rafts. Almost 1,000 people attended the congress dinner, with highlights including pre-dinner drinks on the terrace with the sun setting over the mountains, the string quartet, and an entertaining after-dinner talk by 'a successful modeller' (now a CSIRO manager). Throughout the conference 'de-stressing' yoga sessions were organised by

MSSANZ aims to promote, develop and assist in the study of all areas of modelling and simulation.

The society's main activity is organising the MODSIM biennial conferences on Modelling and Simulation (the first in 1974). These conferences are highly regarded and well attended and attract strong student representation through the award of student prizes and subsidised registration.



**ASIMMOD
2011**

**“Advances in
Earth System
Modeling”**

**Chulalongkorn
University,
Bangkok,
Thailand**

a society volunteer, and as usual the closing ‘student prize’ function (again, drinks on the terrace) was well attended, with the competition being intense. As there were over 110 students, the recipients were well-deserving of their awards. Thanks (again) to David Post for being the student prize coordinator. A list of these winners, other award recipients, and further details of the overall conference can be found at <http://mssanz.org.au/>.

Again, we thank all those who helped organise, and who attended, MODSIM’09. We look forward to meeting with you again in Perth for MODSIM’11.

David Mayer and Neil Gribble

Convenors

ASIMMOD 2011 “Advances in Earth System Modeling”

**Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
October 20-22, 2011**

The 4th International Conference on Asian Simulation and Modeling will be held in October 2011 at the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

The advancement of industrial development and research over the past 20 years has created problems affecting the stability of the earth system including severe climate change, new epidemic diseases, political unrest, famine crises, and extinction of several species. These problems must be promptly and seriously studied and resolved. This aim of ASIMMOD 2011 is to gather researchers to discuss the advancement of solutions to the earth system crisis and the mathematical models relevant to these problems.

The Faculty of Science and Department of Mathematics, Chulalongkorn University along with the Southeast Asia START Region Center (SEA START RC), will host the 4th International Conference on Asian Simulation and Modeling 2011. The conference includes, but is not limited to the following areas:

- Ecosystem, biodiversity, biogeochemistry, bioinformatics and land-use models

- Agriculture, fishery and food production models
- Natural hazard forecasting and warning
- Human, health, population, behaviour and urban system modeling
- Observation, data mining and data integration to support earth system modeling and simulation
- Communicating modeling and simulation outputs to users
- Chemical and physical simulation and modeling
- Modeling and simulation in social science
- Numerical, computing and mathematics simulation and modeling
- Economics and econometrics modeling and simulation
- Large scale modeling and massively parallel computing in simulation
- Complex and multi-scale modeling and simulation.

For further information please refer to <http://www.asimmod2011.sc.chula.ac.th/>

Full papers are due July 31, 2011



In Memory of Professor Phillip Chatwin



Professor Phillip Chatwin

Professor Phillip Chatwin, who has attended several MODSIM meetings, died on 10 September 2010. He made seminal contributions to research into environmental fluid mechanics. He will be particularly remembered for his extensions to the theory of longitudinal dispersion (originally due to G.I.Taylor), and for advances to the basic understanding of turbulent diffusion.

Philip was born in Chester, England in 1942, and in 1959 he gained an Entrance Scholarship to Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He obtained a First Class degree in Mathematics, followed by a Distinction in Part 3 of the Mathematics Tripos. In 1967 he completed his PhD on 'Some Dispersion Problems in Fluid Me-

chanics', supervised by Professor G.K.Batchelor, FRS, in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge.

Following a research fellowship at the University of Grenoble (1967-68), Philip was Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Liverpool (1968-85). Thereafter he became Professor of Mathematics at Brunel University (1985-90) and Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Sheffield (1991-2003), in both of which institutions he served as Head of Department. After retirement he continued to teach fluid mechanics at Sheffield.

Philip is survived by his wife Luisella and daughters Diana and Simona, as well as four grandchildren, two brothers and a sister.

2010 Fellows

Dr Neil Gribble

Professor Masahito
Koayashi

Dr Lachlan Newham

Awards 2010 Fellows

At the 2003 AGM, an Awards Committee was established as a regular Committee of the Society to manage the nomination and selection process for Fellowships, Biennial Medals and ECRE prizes. The Committee is composed of Fellows of the Society, currently, Roger Bradcock, Francis Chiew, Dora Marinova, Blair Nancarrow, and Les Oxley. The committee makes recommendations to the executive, most recently on 2010 Fellows. Fellows are recognised for their unselfish dedication to the aims of the society as well as for their contributions to modelling and simulation.

Dr Neil Gribble (Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries)



Dr Neil Gribble from the Queensland Dept of Primary Industries & Fisheries is a co-investigator on the Seabed Biodiversity Project and is responsible for delivery of

prawn species composition and spatial distribution information. Neil has extensive experience leading projects on fish and crustacean biology, ecological physiology and ecosystem modelling.

Neil has been a member of the Society for many years and was the convenor for MODSIM 2009 in Cairns.

Professor Masahito Kobayashi (Yokohama National University)



Professor Masahito Kobayashi graduated in 1980 and was awarded a Ph.D. in 1987, both from the University of Tokyo. He taught at Kyoto University for seven years and has moved to Yokohama National University.

ty.

He has been interested in the theory of econometrics and has published several articles in *Econometrica*, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Journal of Econometrics*, *Econometric Theory*, and *Journal of Time Series Analysis*.

His recent research has focused on state-space modelling of financial data and some papers are to appear in *MATCOM*.

2010 Fellows continued ...

Dr Lachlan Newham (Australian National University)



Dr Lachlan Newham is a Visiting Fellow of the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University. His research interests are in the field of water quality assessment and modelling. Much

of his work has focused on the development of techniques for modelling the sources, transport and fate of stream pollutants, partic-

ularly sediment and nutrients. Lachlan was awarded a PhD from the Australian National University in 2003.

Lachlan has been a long-term and substantial contributor to MSSANZ Inc. He has organised many sessions at MODSIM Congresses and was the long-serving, visionary Treasurer of MSSANZ (2002—2009). Lachlan was heavily involved in organising MODSIM09 and he is a co-editor of the Proceedings from that Congress.



2009 Biennial Medallists

Biennial Medals go to outstanding contributors to modelling and simulation over a sustained period and who have a record of service to the Society. Medallists automatically become Fellows of the Society.

Dr Francis Chiew (CSIRO Land and Water)



Francis Chiew is currently a Science Leader in CSIRO Land and Water in Canberra where he leads the catchment hydrology research group. He is also an Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne, where he worked for many years before joining CSIRO in 2006. Francis has

over 15 years experience in research, teaching and consulting in hydrology and water resources. He is highly regarded in the areas of hydrological modelling, hydroclimatic variability and climate impact on water, where he has published more than 200 refereed research papers and numerous client and research reports. Francis leads a significant research portfolio and is active in converting research outcomes into products that are widely used by the water industry. His contributions in the climate and water area have allowed policy makers to make more informed risk-based decisions on water planning and management.

More recently, Francis has led various projects that contribute to key national initiatives including the CSIRO Sustainable Yields projects, the South Eastern Australia Climate Initiative and the Australian Hydrological Modelling Initiative.

Professor Cheng Hsiao (University of Southern California)



Cheng Hsiao is Professor of Economics at the University of Southern California and an Honorary Professor of Economics, City University of Hong Kong. He

is the author of the landmark first and second edition of *Analysis of Panel Data*, Econometrics Society Monographs 11 and 34, Cambridge University Press, 1986 and 2003. He is also a coauthor of *Econometric Models, Techniques, and Applications*, second edition (Prentice Hall, 1996, with M. Intriligator and R. Bodkin), and a co-editor of *Analysis of Panels and Limited Dependent Variable Models* and *Nonlinear Statistical Inference*, both by Cambridge University Press. The focus of his research has been theoretical and applied econometrics, with a current interest in the East Asian economy. He has published more than 110 scholarly articles in top econometrics and economics journals. He has also served on the advisory board of various academic institutions. He is a fellow of the Econometric Society, co-editor and fellow of the *Journal of Econometrics*, a fellow of Modelling and

Biennial Medallists

Professor Francis
Chiew

Professor Cheng
Hsiao

Ms Blair Nancarrow



Biennial Medallists (continued)

Professor Francis Chiew

Professor Cheng Hsiao

Ms Blair Nancarrow

Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand and an Academician of the Academia Sinica, Taipei.

Ms Blair Nancarrow (Australian National University)



Blair Nancarrow spent 21 years as a social scientist in CSIRO Land & Water. Blair's particular area of expertise has been in the design and implementation of large, community-based research programs and experiments in the people/environment interface. Her background in education is invaluable in both research implementation as well as the communication of results to lay personnel.

Blair's research of greatest note has been two longitudinal and developmental research programs: (i) social justice in water allocation and environmental decision making (1989 – 2003) and (ii) identifying and modelling the

drivers of community behavioural intentions in relation to wastewater reuse (2002 – 2007).

Blair has a special interest in the development of methods and processes to ensure the meaningful incorporation of social science in triple-bottom-line analysis of environmental policy and developments. This quest has brought her into collaboration with environmental modellers over the past five years. Her involvement in MODSIM05, 07 and 09, the latter in the development of the Stream, *Participatory Decision Making and Modelling Social Systems* has substantially raised the profile of the social sciences in MODSIM.

Blair recently retired from CSIRO to take up work in her own consultancy, and she is also a Visiting Fellow at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University in Canberra.

2009 Early Career Research Excellence (ECRE) Awards

Early Career Research Excellence (ECRE) Awards are awarded in each of the three categories. These commenced in 2001 and are normally awarded to researchers who obtained their PhD within the last seven years or so.

Dr Chris Pettit

Dr Christopher Pettit is the Research Manager - Spatial Information Sciences and Principal Research Scientist within the Future Farming Systems Research Division, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria. Dr Pettit maintains honorary appointments at the University of Melbourne as an Associate Professor in the Department of Geomatics and Senior Research Fellow, RMIT University. Chris' research interests lie in the areas of geographical visualisation and spatial decision support tools specifically applied to addressing questions of land use change and sustainable resource use. He is the Associate Editor for the International Journal – Ap-



plied Spatial Analysis and Policy. Dr Pettit has published over 50 peer reviewed papers in books, journals and conferences over the last 10 years. He has participated in more than 20 International conferences in a range of capacities including keynote speaker, conference organiser, session organiser, session chair and presenter. Chris is a director of the Surveying Spatial Sciences Institute, chair of the Spatial Information Cartography Commission and chair of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) working group on geographical visualisation and virtual reality. Dr Pettit is also the principal author to the ESRI International online virtual campus course "Introduction to urban and regional planning using ArcGIS".

Early Career Research Excellence Award recipients

Dr Chris Pettit

Dr Shawn Laffan

Dr Chia-Lin Chang

Dr Shawn Laffan



Shawn Laffan is a Senior Lecturer in GIS at the University of New South Wales in the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science. He has a BSc(hons) and a PhD from the ANU. His research interests are in GIS and spatial

data analysis, with a focus on the modelling of disease outbreaks in animal populations and analysis of biodiversity and terrain, and related work on applications in habitat modelling, soil and regolith mapping, fisheries, and invasive weed control.

A key research output is software to conduct spatial analysis. Of note is the Biodiverse System developed for the spatial analysis of diversity (www.purl.org/biodiverse). The system supports the analysis and visualisation of spatially referenced observation data, linked with other data such as phylogenetic trees and matrices of genetic similarity.

Dr Chia-Lin Chang



Dr Chia-Lin Chang is Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Economics, specialising in Microeconomics and empirical Industrial Organisation, at the National Chung Hsing University of Taiwan.

Professor Chang has published one edited conference proceedings volume, 9 papers in international journals, 8 chapters in edited books, and has several papers submitted to journals. Her research areas include industrial organization, innovation strategies, science and technology policy, Taiwan industry and economy, economic development in Asia, international trade agreements, risk analysis and management, agricultural finance, tourism research, and empirical finance.



Student Presentation
Award Recipients

Vikram Sunkara

Wendy Minato

Fiona Paton

Baihua Fu

Ghialy Yap

Fiona Johnson

Lisa Lowe

Joanna Szemis

Brittany Coff

Xin Zhao

2009 Student Presentation Awards

Students giving the best presentations of their papers at Biennial conferences are awarded a cash prize and a Certificate of Commendation. The 2009 awards went to:

Student Award Winners

Vikram Sunkara



Vikram Sunkara is a PhD student at The Australian National University. He graduated from the University of Wollongong in 2008 with first class honours in Bachelor of Advanced Mathematics. In 2009, he started a PhD at the ANU

under the supervision of Dr Markus Hegland working on numerical analysis of high dimensional problems. Vikram is interested in understanding and developing new solvers for The Chemical Master Equation (cme) and is undertaking application of the cme into system biology, chemical kinetics and neuroscience. Mr Sunkara started research in the second year of his Mathematics degree, where he worked with Professor Aditya Ghose on multi-agent systems. He was also awarded a Telstra prize for informatics.

Wendy Minato



Wendy Minato is a PhD student enrolled at Charles Sturt University. In her third year of research, Wendy is looking at the relative influence of government investment and demographic change on

the extent of native vegetation on private land. Her social research is being supported by a large Commonwealth Environment Research Fund (CERF) project called Landscape Logic that aims to Link investment with outcomes. Research has been carried out in a small case study area in north-eastern Victoria with fieldwork consisting mostly of interviews with landholders and government NRM agency personnel.



Student Presentation
Award Recipients

Fiona Paton



Fiona Paton is a PhD student at the University of Adelaide. Fiona presented a paper at MODSIM09 titled: *Considering sustainability in the planning and management of regional urban water supply systems: A case study of Adelaide's Southern system.*

Baihua Fu



Baihua Fu is a recently graduated PhD student from the Australian National University. Baihua presented one paper at MODSIM09 titled: *Integration of a road erosion model, WARSEM, with a catchment sediment delivery model, CatchMODS.* Baihua is pursuing her post doctoral research at the ANU in environmental modelling areas, focusing on model integration and decision support systems.

Ghialy Yap



Ghialy Yap has completed her PhD thesis at Edith Cowan University, Perth, Western Australia in 2010 on the topic 'An Econometric Analysis of Australian Domestic Tourism Demand'. It investigated the factors that influence domestic tourism demand in Australia and travel characteristics in each main Australian State/Territory. Currently, Ghialy works as a full time economics lecturer at Edith Cowan University. She is still actively working on research projects related to tourism economics and applied econometrics.

Fiona Johnson



Fiona Johnson is a PhD student at the University of New South Wales. Fiona presented two papers titled: *GCM simulations of a future climate: How does the*

skill of GCM precipitation simulations compare to temperature simulations, and Assessing future droughts in Australia - a nesting model to correct for long-term persistence in general circulation model precipitation simulations. Fiona's PhD research has focussed on ways to evaluate and enhance climate model outputs for water resources climate change impact assessments.

Lisa Lowe



Dr Lisa Lowe is a Senior Hydrologist at Sinclair Knight Merz. Lisa's research interests are around understanding the magnitude and nature of the uncertainties associated with water related information. Lisa's PhD studies at the University of Melbourne identified and quantified the uncertainties in water accounts and developed a method to constrain these uncertainties. Prior to commencing post-graduate studies, Lisa spent five years at Sinclair Knight Merz working in water resource management and environmental hydrology.



Student Award Commendations

Joanna Szemis



Joanna Szemis is a PhD candidate at the University of Adelaide. Joanna co-presented a paper with Brittany Coff at MODSIM09 titled: *Relating catchment attributes to parameters of a salt and water balance model*. Currently, she is in the second year of her PhD which focuses on developing an optimisation framework for environmental management using ant colony algorithms. As part of this framework, she is investigating the use of multi-objective optimisation and real-time scheduling of management actions.

Brittany Coff



Brittany Coff is a Civil and Environmental Engineer who graduated from the University of Adelaide in 2008. Brittany co-presented her honours project at MODSIM09, which developed a method for relating catchment attributes to the parameters of a salt and water balance model, for application on the management of salinity in ungauged areas. Brittany is currently working for Sinclair Knight Merz in Adelaide as a Water Resources Engineer.

Xin Zhao



Xin Zhao was a PhD student at the Mathematics & Statistics Department of the University of Canterbury when she presented her paper at MODSIM09. The focus of her PhD research was extreme value modeling with application in neonatal and finance studies. The research investigated stochastic volatility models, extreme value models and mixture modeling with Bayesian inference, in particular in the context of time series analysis and forecasting. She has now completed her PhD in Statistics.

MSSANZ Treasurer's report

The major activity of MSSANZ since the last newsletter was the Cairns conference in July 2009. We are now hard at work organising the Perth conference in December 2011.

MSSANZ remains in a strong financial position in 2010. A loss was made in the 2009-10 financial year as a result of final payments incurred from the 2009 Congress in Cairns. However this is balanced by a profit in the previous financial year in which we received the majority of our conference returns. MSSANZ's funds are held predominantly in term deposits at the Commonwealth Bank. These investments ensure the long-term viability of MSSANZ and support the running of the Office. MSSANZ has no liabilities.

In the 2009-2010 financial year, our largest expenditures were associated with the 2009 Congress in Cairns, primarily for venue hire and conference entertainment.

The financial statements continue to be audited on an annual basis by Canberra-based firm Les Ellis and associates. Financial statements are available on request. Please contact me via email (wendy.merritt@anu.edu.au) or telephone (02 6125 7762) to obtain these statements or to discuss any aspect of the financial management of MSSANZ.

Lastly, a big thank you to our previous treasurer, Lachlan Newham, for his contribution to MSSANZ and particularly for his assistance in showing me the path to 'Treasurer' enlightenment (i.e. good record keeping).

Wendy Merritt
Treasurer, MSSANZ



2011 Biennial Medallists and ECRE Awards

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations open 1 January 2011 and close 31 March 2011 for the Biennial Medallists and Early Career Research Excellence Awards.

Categories

The Society awards Fellowships, Biennial Medals, Early Career Research Excellence Prizes and Student Commendations for Excellent Papers and Presentations. Fellows are awarded in every even-numbered year. Biennial Medals, Early Career Research Excellence Prizes, and Student Prizes and Commendations are awarded in every odd-numbered year to coincide with the Biennial Conferences. The next set of awards will be presented at the MODSIM2011 Congress in Perth.

BIENNIAL MEDALS

Biennial medals recognise "exceptional research contributions to modelling and simulation and for promoting the aims of the Society." Any member of the Society may be nominated for a Biennial Medal. The proposer and seconder must be members of the Society and self-nomination is not per-

mitted. The Awards Committee assesses the nominations and makes recommendations to the Management Committee for approval.

EARLY CAREER RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ECRE awards recognise "early career research excellence in modelling and simulation." An early career researcher should have graduated with a PhD degree or equivalent within seven years of being nominated for the award. As for Biennial Medals, any member of the Society may be nominated. The proposer and seconder must be members of the Society and self-nomination is not permitted. The Awards Committee assesses the nominations and makes recommendations to the Management Committee for approval.

STUDENT PRIZES

Student presentations are evaluated by either the session organiser or at least one member of the Student Awards Committee. No less than 5% and no more than 15% of students will be awarded commendations.



The commendation takes the form of a certificate and cash reward.

Students awarded commendations are selected on the basis of the quality of their presentations. Students who have submitted their thesis (honours, Masters or PhD) in the six months prior to MODSIM are also eligible but they must notify the chair of the Student Awards Committee as early as possible.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Written nominations should be sent directly to the Chair of the Awards Committee (Tony Jakeman), accompanied by a written statement and a curriculum vitae of the nominee. The deadline for nominations is the 31 March 2011.

Medallists automatically become Fellows of the Society, and are entitled to use the post nominal "FMSSANZ".

PRESENTATION

The awards will be presented at the Congress, MODSIM2011.

Members

The Society has more than 1,000 members from 50 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Members are from a wide range of professional disciplines including mathematics, hydrology, agricultural science, economics, engineering, atmospheric science, ecology, computer science and many others.

Newsletter Production

This newsletter has been produced by the MSSANZ Inc. Office at iCAM, The Australian National University. Mikaela Giri has compiled the newsletter from material provided by Wendy Merritt, Susan Cuddy, Tony Jakeman, David Mayer and others. Where the Society did not have photos or biographies of award winners, these were sourced from the web.

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