



2011 SIM Paper Awards

Each year, the Society for Information Management sponsors the SIM Best Paper Awards. This competition encourages research that impacts practice. Winning papers must be a collaboration between academic professionals and industry practitioners. Since SIM's thrust is toward executive management, the work should describe an initiative of interest to senior IT leaders and should have a significant impact on the organization involved.

Each year, abstracts and papers are reviewed using these criteria:

- Innovation: Are new strategies and approaches described?
- Impact: Does the paper address the real problem and does it help to solve the problem?
- Implementation: Is the innovation operational?
- Re-applicability: Is the approach applicable to other organizations?
- Appeal and readability: Will the paper appeal to SIM membership?

This year, the **Panel of Judges** included three practitioners and three academic professionals. We thank those who served as judges, including: Carol Brown, Editor of MIS Quarterly Executive and Stevens Institute of Technology; Steve Hufford, Enterprise Architect; Wendell Jones, SIM Chief Executive; Lance Eliot, President, Eliot Associates; Jack Becker, University of North Texas; and Mary Sumner, SIM Academic Liaison and Southern Illinois University.

We want to recognize the winners of the 2011 SIM Paper Competition. The awards were handed over at this year's SIMposium on November 14, 2011 in Orlando, FL.

The **First Place Winner** was a paper entitled, **"Assessing Cloud Readiness at Continental AG,"** by **Dr. Claudia Loebbecke**, University of Cologne, and **Dr. Bernhard Thomas** and **Thomas Ullrich**, Continental AG. The research provided a framework for determining which information technology services are a good "fit" for the "cloud." This framework is applicable to other organizations interested in identifying cloud-based information services (claudia.loebbecke<at>uni-koeln.de).

The **Second Place Winner** was a paper entitled, **"Drawing "Align" in the Sand: The Cultural Shift Towards Embedded IT,"** by **Dr. Jerry Luftman**, Stevens Institute of Technology, and **Frank Wander**, **Mark Nathan**, and **Harshil Sutaria**, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America. This paper uses a framework to assess the alignment of information technology with strategy and provides a re-applicable tool to better understand alignment (jluftman<at>stevens.edu).

Congratulations to the 2011 SIM Paper Competition Award Winners. Adapted versions of the papers will be published in **MIS Quarterly Executive** which is available to all SIM members at the SIM web site (www.simnet.org).

