



SIGUCCS Fall Conference 2009

THE ARCH ADVISOR

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Conference Countdown!

 *Early Registration Ends September 15th*

The theme of this Fall Conference is **Communication and Collaboration**. You won't find a better venue to pursue both of these than this year's location of St. Louis, Missouri, "The Gateway to the West"! Plus, the conference hotel is situated right amongst the city's most amazing attractions! When you walk out the door, you'll be just steps away from Busch Stadium (home of the St. Louis Cardinals), the Gateway Arch (site of our Tuesday night gala), the Edward Jones Dome (home of the St. Louis Rams), the Riverfront, and even more! This is a town with something for everyone: river boat casinos, breweries, sports, fitness, history, and great restaurants and shopping!

Check out some **of the exciting new aspects of this year's program** below!

★ **PresentIT**: In the past, there were two or more presentations on similar topics

during one scheduled session, which often caused problems for people wanting to switch sessions between talks. This year, there will be only one presentation during each 45 minute session, so you can pick which sessions you want to attend, and not miss any!



★ **LeadIT**: Looking for leadership development and/or ideas? Now there's a track of talks geared to the newer manager, the aspiring leader, or just someone looking for fresh ideas. Experienced Higher Ed

IT leaders will provide talks and facilitate discussions on various topics, such as Higher Ed IT career paths and various ways of talking to your CIO.

★ **DiscussIT**: The late afternoon Birds-of-a-Feather sessions (BOFs) have always been popular, so opportunities have been added during the day to attend facilitated discussions on topics such as customer service training and lab

HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday



Workshops, Orientations, Welcome Reception with Soulard Blues Band

Monday



Opening Keynote Speaker Jason Young, Program Sessions, BOFs, Hospitality Suite

Tuesday



Program Sessions, BOFs, Gala at St. Louis Arch, Hospitality Suite

Wednesday



Program Sessions, Closing Keynote Speaker, Cynthia Golden

★ **GRAB-IT:** To accommodate the new program format, there will not be any formal refreshment breaks between sessions. Instead, refreshments will be provided and you'll have 10-15 minutes to "grab" something and move to your next session. Rooms are planned to be arranged in classroom seating style, so you'll have a table to use for refreshments and note-taking.



★ **Experience IT:** In keeping with the theme of Communication and Collaboration, social networking tools - Facebook and Twitter (linked from <http://www.siguccs.org/Conference/Fall2009/schedule.html>), and additional networking opportunities, have been incorporated. Sharing ideas informally is often the most useful and enjoyable part of the conference!

★ **ConnectIT:** Since there will be Internet access in all guest rooms and wireless in our meetings rooms and gathering spaces, and, according to past data, most people bring their own computers or PDAs, **there will be NO SEPARATE EMAIL ROOM this year.** Additionally, the hotel has a free business center for guests, including a place to print boarding passes or other documents at no charge.



Welcome Newcomers!

We hope you'll make it to St. Louis in time to attend the welcome meeting for all first-time attendees, 5-6 P.M. in Salon C. This is an "orientation" opportunity to start networking and learn the secrets to getting the most out of your time at SIGUCCS! You'll gain as much by meeting and networking with people who do the same things you do, as you'll gain by attending sessions. This conference



has many networking opportunities built into the schedule. Newcomer Orientation leader Laurie Fox (SUNY Geneseo) will get you started on a

successful conference experience. You'll meet the Conference Planning Committee, mingle with other newcomers, and then move on to the fun "Welcome

Reception" (plan to wear your school's t-shirt, sweat-shirt, etc.).

Volunteering

This conference is successful each year due to the efforts of the wonderful volunteers who work to pull it all together. If you can help at the conference in any way - staffing the registration desk, stuffing goodie bags on Saturday, etc., please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Gretchen Maxam, at gmaxam@hamilton.edu.



Weather and Attire

The weather in St. Louis in October is generally comfortable (60s-70s) and sunny during the day, and cool (40s-50s) in the evenings.

Conference attendees normally dress in business-casual attire. (For those still not sure, Wikipedia provides a good definition at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business_casual). On the final day (Wednesday), when people are traveling, more informal attire (jeans, etc.) is quite acceptable.

Transportation

If you're flying in to the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, there are several means to reach the conference hotel, the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark: (1) Airport shuttle: travels to/from most downtown hotels every 15-30 minutes. It is listed as \$21 round trip for one person and advanced reservations are recommended (<http://www.gobestexpress.com/>); (2) Metrolink, St. Louis' light rail system: from airport to Stadium Station, then .36 mile walk to hotel; cost: \$2.25. (3) Taxi: cost ~\$35 one way (4) Rental cars: several rental car companies are available at the airport.

So, it's time to start getting ready for the SIGUCCS Fall 2009 Conference! If you haven't already registered, please do so soon (<http://www.siguccs.org/Conference/Fall2009/registration.html>) so you can get the reduced early registration fee. This year's conference is expected to be somewhat smaller, allowing for great sessions and exceptional networking opportunities. Located in amazing St. Louis, and with a brand new program format, ***this is the one SIGUCCS conference you won't want to miss!***
