AMCBT Annual Meeting BANQUET SPEAKER: Future of Simulations

Dennis Defensor
President and CEO of ICOM Simulations
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Mr. Defensor is spearheading the company’s efforts in multimedia and CD-ROM entertainment software in both the U.S., Japan and European markets. ICOM has produced the first interactive movie on CD-ROM in the world, Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective, Volume I, and this product is probably the most successful CD-ROM game to date. The product uses 90-minutes of full-motion video which was produced and filmed by the company. The company has also released Volume II and plans to release Volume III in April of 1993. Both Sherlock Holmes Volume I and Volume II are in the top-ten selling CD-ROM entertainment software products list. Prior to joining ICOM in 1990, Mr. Defensor was Vice President, Systems Integration Division for Falcon Microsystems, Incorporated. From 1989 to 1990, and was Project Manager, Computer Contracts from 1984-1988. At Falcon, he was responsible for winning several multi-million dollar contracts with the federal government for Macintosh and PC-compatible computer and networking systems. From 1983 to 1984, Mr. Defensor was Vice-President of Operations of Software America, a PC software distributor where he was responsible for the marketing, product evaluation, and shipping/receiving divisions. From 1982 to 1983, Mr. Defensor was a software engineer for NEC Home Electronics. Between 1980 and 1982, he was a chemist at Smith Laboratories, Inc. (manufacturers of Chymopapain, for hemiated discs) and a lab assistant for the Neurosciences Department, Northwestern University Medical School. During his college years, he received a research grant to develop a computer modeling and tutorial program for the Biology Department for teaching gene-ordering, chromosome-mapping and other concepts in Genetics. Aside from his computer-related experience, Mr. Defensor is also an attorney and he has clerked for Morgan, Lewis & Brocki (Washington, DC) and was an associate attorney at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs (Louisville, KY). Mr. Defensor holds a J.D. from the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America and a B.S. in Biology from Beloit College.

AMCBT Annual Meeting KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Biological Visualization

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Extraordinary views of biological structures are now possible with microcomputer originated graphics. Animations, dimensional reconstructions, and other forms of visualizations allow both instructor and students to “see” structural data in ways not previously possible. This presentation will survey some of the best of the biological visualizations now available. Aggressive approaches to visualizations carry additional burdens including the level of visual literacy of the viewer. Four and five dimensional data sets require careful presentation. Incorporation of the new visualizations into teaching strategies is also a difficult process. Careful attention must be paid to how students can learn with these new technologies. Computer-based biological visualization opens very new doors to how students can think about traditional material and at the same time provides means for addressing new topics.