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Panel: Report of the Joint ACM/AIS Committee on Graduate IS Curriculum

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Panel: Report of the Joint ACM/AIS Committee on Graduate IS Curriculum

Panelists: J. Gorgone, Bentley College, jgorgone@bentley.edu and P. Gray, Claremont Graduate University, paul.gray@cgu.edu (Committee Co-Chairs); D. Feinstein, University of South Alabama; J. Luftman, Stevens Institute of Technology; E.A. Stohr, New York University, J. Valacich, Washington State University,
R. Wigand, Syracuse University

This panel will discuss the *MS in IS Curriculum Guidelines for the 21st Century*. This curriculum is the work of a committee jointly sponsored by the Association for Information Systems (AIS) and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). The committee, chaired by John Gorgone and Paul Gray, conducted several virtual conferences and a series of meetings during 1998 and 1999. It also consulted extensively with the IS community through presentations at ten different national and international meetings.

In brief, the curriculum guidelines are suitable for

- both 1 year and 2 year MS programs;
- programs undertaken by beginners coming from outside IS and for programs for professionals upgrading their skills;
- students with different career objectives; and

- programs inside and outside schools of business.

The program consists of five building blocks, two of which are prerequisite foundations in IT and in business, one is the IS core, a new block on integration, and a career track block to allow students to obtain a concentration in an area in which specific skills are required.

The program is a professional degree that integrates information and organizational cultures. In addition to providing specific IS skills it has the following themes running through it: ethics and professionalism, presentation skills, promoting ideas and negotiating, people skills, business skills, customer orientation and a real-world focus.

Members of the panel will describe the program and its underlying philosophy. All members of the panel will then interact with the audience to answer questions and concerns.