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## UNO hosts conference on information systems

Scott Stewart  
August 24, 2005

More than 1,000 people attended the annual Americas Conference on Information Systems held at the Qwest Convention Center in downtown Omaha August 11-14.

This year the event was hosted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha's College of Information Science and Technology in conjunction with the Association for Information Systems (AIS). The Peter Kiewit Institute was also an event sponsor.

Two UNO professors were fundamental in bringing the conference to Omaha. Professor Ilze Zigurs, secretary of the AIS, and Prof. Deepak Khazanchi, chairman of the department of Information Systems and Qualitative Analysis, initially placed a bid for the AIS's December conference-the International Conference on Information Systems.

"The whole thing started about four years ago," Khazanchi said.

UNO's main competition for the conference was the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Las Vegas was awarded the December convention, but the August meeting was offered to Omaha.

"Even though it's called the Americas conference, this one is more inclusive," Khazanchi told the Gateway. Attendees from 40 different countries arrived in Omaha for the weekend conference. Hundreds of different institutions, ranging from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to lesser-known Latin American universities were represented.

Helped by the Peter Kiewit Institute, this year has shown some of the largest financial contributions for an AIS conference. "UNO is well respected by our business community," Khazanchi said.

Besides the Peter Kiewit Institute, conference sponsors included the Greater Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau, the AIM Institute, Union Pacific, Mutual of Omaha, and First National Bank of Omaha.

"It was a great success," Zigurs said. She also recalled an anecdote of an Australian delegate approaching her on an elevator in the Qwest Center to tell her that the conference "was well worth the trip."

"AMCIS 2005 @ Omaha: A Conference on a Human Scale" consisted of more



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than 150 sessions broken down into 18 parallel tracks, 15 at the Qwest Center and three in the Hilton hotel across the street. In addition, more than 100 people attended pre-convention workshops in such topics as grant writing. About 425 papers were presented at the conference, selected from more than 675 papers from across the globe.

The cost to attend the conference ranged from \$200 for an early student member of the AIS to \$545 for an on-site corporate new or renewing member. More information is available online at the conference website, [amcis2005.isqa.unomaha.edu](http://amcis2005.isqa.unomaha.edu).



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