By Shimelis Assefa, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

Hello SIG/IIIers, I am so excited to assume the chairmanship for the 2014-15 calendar year. I am very hopeful together we will continue the tradition of excellence that has been built over the years in SIG III culture. We had a successful year that culminated in the ASIS&T 2014 AM in Seattle, thanks to the fine leadership of Anatoliy Gruzd.

As you read in this issue of the newsletter, we had a successful business meeting, international reception, awards of paper contest and silent auction. We came a little short this year in fundraising activities that constitutes the sale of raffle tickets and silent auction. Through devout supporters like Drs. Sam Hastings and Toni Carbo, we were finally able to get closer to our target by raising 1200 USD. We, however, find ourselves in good financial standing as you note from the report by the treasurer. Our Website is back up and running after some glitch, thanks to the hard work of Fatih. We have now a new calendar system powered by Google Calendar that allows easier submission of events and conferences (http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/international-conferences).

The infoShare call is out, thanks to Selena and Chris for getting us started early. We equally need to spread the word for the international paper contest to attract more submissions.

This year, SIG III is crowned when Abebe Rorissa (former SIG/III Chair) was awarded the SIG member of the year. Congratulations!! Abebe. This is a clear testimony of the hard work and recognition accorded by the ASIS&T community to SIG/III.

As we look into the New Year, I invite all of us to contribute to the cause of SIG III in a meaningful way. I, for one, think our SIG is best situated to spark a discussion around information and its role in society and culture. Information permeates every fabric of society, rich or poor, advanced economies or least developing countries, from everyday life situations to the most advanced and complex scientific enterprises. We do things through and via information. There is no better meaning or purpose for SIG III other than exploring the impact of information in people’s lives across cultures and boundaries. We need to properly define the ‘issues’ surrounding information. When we have done that, I believe we have made an enormous contribution to the ASIS&T community and beyond. In view of this, let’s all contribute ideas how we can achieve that through series of webinars and responding to the call for papers, panels, workshops, and posters for the 78th ASIS&T AM in Saint Louis, MO, November 6-10, 2015.

Extending membership benefits to students and information professionals from developing countries through infoShare scheme has been very successful (http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/infoShare/). As it was reported during the business meeting in Seattle, total membership number stands at 123, a 5% increase from the previous year. I hope we will continue to recruit more colleagues and increase membership number. In the same vein we need to continue to promote the international paper contest to attract more submissions, especially from developing countries. This year’s ASIS&T AM theme “Information Science with Impact: Research in and for the Community,” is a fitting agenda for contributions from our international colleagues. We are fortunate, the Taylor and Francis Group, has joined our effort to support international paper contest winners. Taylor and Francis considers publishing of winning papers and extends financial support for winners to attend ASIS&T annual meeting.

Thank you everyone for your hard work and for positioning SIG/III for what it is today. I believe in collective leadership and I hope we will all continue to do the great work that our previous officers have started.
By Krystyna K. Matusiak, Co-Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

The SIG III international reception at the 2014 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Seattle was a successful social and fundraising event. The reception provided an opportunity to recognize the 2014 International Paper Contest winner, Bhakti Gala from India.

The international reception is held annually in conjunction with a silent auction and a raffle, two major SIG-III fundraising activities. The proceeds from the raffle ticket sale and the silent auction are used to support the InfoShare program that sponsors ASIS&T membership for scholars and information professionals from developing countries. The 2014 InfoShare fundraising activity drew significant support. A total of $1,200 was raised through the raffle ticket sale and the silent auction. The gift basket that was raffled at the reception was donated by the ASIS&T Student Chapter at the University of Washington. The gift basket included local Seattle specialties, such as coffee and hot chocolate.

Our thanks go individuals and organizations who helped us to make the 2014 international reception a great success: a.) the ASIS&T Student Chapter at the University of Washington for donating the gift basket; b.) ASIS&T members who either donated or bid on items for the silent auction; and c.) SIG III members who went around selling raffle tickets throughout the evening.

It is not too soon to start thinking about the SIG III international reception at the 2015 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in St. Louis. Please remember the SIG III silent auction and start collecting pieces for the silent auction. See you in St. Louis.

SIG-III’s Social media strategy for involving information professionals from around the world

By Emma Zhang, Social Media Administrator (Twitter), ASIS&T SIG-III

As the social media administrator of SIG-III, I am responsible for the Twitter Account updates. The twitter posts have been updated regularly, at least twice a week on average. The content of the posts is selected carefully surrounding the mission and goals of SIG-III. I am really grateful for the support from other SIG-III members. We tried our best to maximize the diversity and coverage of the content of the posts, plus, efforts were also made to network with ASIST.org, SIG groups, and other affiliated organizations.

The twitter posts under the SIG-III account are mostly the announcement of the group, including calls for submission, activity schedules, and conference updates. We also post news and reports on international issues from a wide selection of media, such as Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, and school/university media. Bearing the hope that the SIG-III would attraction more attention from global information professionals and to broaden our perspectives, little restriction is set for the content selection, as long as it is information related.

The SIG-III twitter works really smoothly due to the help and interest from our members. All of us endeavor and hope to fill it with exciting news and insightful posts to involve more information professionals from around the world.
By Selenay Aytac and Christine Hagar, InfoShare Officers, ASIS&T SIG-III

The ASIS&T International Information Issues Special Interest Group (SIG-III) is pleased to announce that for 2015 we will be able to sponsor another group of deserving information professionals from developing countries for complimentary ASIS&T memberships (the financial burden of which would otherwise be prohibitive). We are soliciting nominations of candidates for the InfoShare Membership Award. The award will be given to LIS professionals.

Please include a one-page curriculum vitae and a one-page description of why this person is deserving of membership, including their willingness to promote ASIS&T within their networks and build relationships between ASIS&T and the national/regional organizations. Awardees will be decided by a vote of the SIG-III officers. All curricula vitae will be kept private, accessible only to SIG-III officers.

Each membership award will be for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year if the new member proves to be a strong advocate for ASIS&T in their home country during the course of the year. Awardees will be asked to submit a report on their activities by next year's Annual Meeting, which may include, but are not limited to:

• sharing ASIS&T publications that they receive (the Bulletin of ASIS&T and JASIS&T) with other colleagues
• promoting the SIG-III paper contest among their colleagues
• serving as a contact/coordinator for ASIS&T members traveling to their area who may be able to speak about ASIS&T and information science
• having the ability to strengthen the relationships between ASIS&T and the national/regional organizations, and
• sponsoring lectures on information science topics in their area on behalf of ASIS&T

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Nominators can mentor the award recipients for the above activities.

We look forward to welcoming new members to ASIS&T from across the globe, especially from countries that have never been ASIS&T members or have limited ASIS&T membership. Women, minority, and candidates from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

Please feel free to circulate the Call in your professional networks (e.g., your alma mater listservs, professional contacts at IFLA, OCLC, international organizations, practitioner groups, academic institutions, etc.). Please send your nominations of deserving candidates to Selenay Aytac (selenay.aytac@liu.edu) or Christine Hagar (christine.hagar@sjsu.edu).

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By Maqsood Shaheen, International Paper Contest Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

The Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG III) is pleased to announce the following winners of its 13th International Paper Contest:

• First Place Winner: Bhakti Gala for the paper on "Blogs, Bloggers and Scholarly Publications" (INDIA)
• Second Place Winner: Muhammad Javed Iqbal for the paper entitled "Scholars' Perceptions about HEC Library Resources and Services: A Quantitative Study of User Satisfaction" (PAKISTAN)

The principal authors of each of the winning papers will be awarded a two-year individual membership to ASIS&T. In addition, the first place winner will be awarded a minimum of $1,000 to attend the 2014 ASIS&T annual meeting in Seattle, WA (USA).

The first place paper will be considered for publication by Taylor & Francis' International Information and Library Review (IILR).

We thank the jurors for the 2014 competition: Maqsood Shaheen (Chair), Fatih Oguz (Member), and Alma Rivera (Member).

We also thank Routledge/Taylor & Francis for their support of this program.

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By Bhakti Gala

My selection for the award by the SIG – III Panel of Judges and the announcement of the award on October 12th vide e-mail, sent me on a whirlwind of preparations for attending the Annual General Meeting and International Conference at Seattle, USA during November 1-3. As the trip was being funded by ASIS&T with an upper limit of 2000 $ I tried in a very short span of time to get my flight tickets, and hotel booking done trying hard to stay within the budget. I was completely humbled by the gesture of ASIS&T to sponsor my conference registration as it was becoming financially difficult for me to attend the full conference which I was very keen to attend, as I was travelling a long distance to attend the event. I found complete support and co-operation from the ASIS&T SIG-III chair Anatoly Gruzd, Shaheen Ahmed, Rorissa Abebe and the other ASIS&T members who patiently answered all my queries and guided me through the different steps.

I arrived in Seattle on the 2nd November and directly headed to the conference venue in downtown Seattle. I was
feeling a bit nervous as this was my first such experience of attending an International Conference. My fears were put to rest immediately at the reception desk when I found that necessary arrangements had been made for me to attend the conference. I proceeded to the New Member Brunch and found comfort in the welcoming faces of so many strangers. It was interesting to notice how informal the event was with the different SIG’s making their marketing pitch to new members to join them. I met so many people from such diverse and fascinating fields- that I felt that this couldn’t get any better. But I was wrong. The paper and panel sessions turned out to be so interesting that I sorely lacked having multiple identities who could have attended all the sessions, as in order to attend one I did miss the other. I finally met up with SIG-III members at 5 in the evening and it was good to associate faces with the names I had become so familiar with. The SIG-III team members made me feel very welcome by inviting me to their planning session for the International Reception in which they were planning to give me the award. I felt humbled by knowing how the fund to sponsor the travel award for winners like me was generated through a silent auction.

On November 3 the SIG-III members invited me to attend their annual meet where I had a chance to interact with other SIG-III members. The International Reception at 8 in the evening was an evening that will remain in my memory for a long time. The items for the silent auction were so beautiful- and the raffle added to the lightheartedness of the otherwise formal dinner.

Attending the event was an overwhelming experience, this feeling was further accentuated as I got to meet authors I had cited in my works and read so much about. I also feel that I can now take my research study further with the help of ASIS&T membership which has allowed me to meet many experts in the area of my research. I feel thrilled to be a part of an international community that believes in inclusive growth. I believe that by recognizing and awarding candidates from developing countries, SIG-III is truly becoming an international platform where international issues find a fair representation from the international community.

By Abebe Rorissa

At the end of August 2014, I received an email from the Chair of the ASIS&T SIG Cabinet, Kathryn LaBarre, with the subject line “Congratulations”. Like most people these days, I use spam filters to minimize the chance of spam messages ending up in my inbox. The fact that this particular message got through the filters meant that it wasn’t a spam. It was a legitimate message that Kathryn sent me to let me know that I was the winner of the 2014 ASIS&T SIG Member of the Year Award.

I believe this Award is more a recognition of our collective efforts than an individual one. Because, nothing is achieved without the efforts and support of others who are as invested, if not more invested, in the ideals and mission of an organization and/or a group like SIG III.

Not only am I deeply humbled and honored to receive the Award, I am also grateful to numerous friends, colleagues, and members of ASIS&T & SIG III. Chief among them are Daniel Gelaw Alemneh, Anatoliy Gruzd, and Shimelis Assefa. Over the last number of years, they have all graciously provided me with their support and worked tirelessly to make SIG III one of the strongest, if not the strongest, ASIS&T SIG.

I am also grateful to: Michel Menou, Toni Carbo, and Tefko Saracevic for their mentoring and advice as well as for having the vision to form a SIG that had been growing for more than 32 years and still going strong; Sam Hastings for her generosity, energy, and for being the greatest mentor and friend one could ever wish for; and all past officers of SIG III, too many to mention here individually, for setting a higher bar for and passing a more brightly lit torch to the next generation of officers; the ASIS&T headquarters staff for their hard work and attention to detail, even when it comes to the size and location of the rooms for our International Receptions; our institutional and individual donors, including many ASIS&T members, who gave their generous financial support when called upon; all the students and other volunteers who helped SIG III raise funds at the various ASIS&T International Receptions; and many more whom I failed to list for the sake of brevity rather than ungratefulness.

When I became an ASIS&T member over 13 years ago, little did I know that I would, among other things, serve on the advisory board of the ASIS&T Bulletin, help edit the ASIS&T Proceedings, and chair SIG III. But I did and finally won an award. The bottom-line is get involved in ASIS&T and SIG III. Not because of awards, although ASIS&T does eventually recognize those who serve the Association and its members, because your involvement will potentially make a difference. It is the least you and I can do, given what Michel, Toni, Tefko, Sam, and other pioneers have done and still continue to do.
2014 Cabinet Meeting Minutes

SIG Cabinet Meeting, Sunday, November 1, 2014
Minutes provided by Toni Carbo, SIG III Cabinet Representative

Agenda

1. SIG Roll call: roll call was completed; nearly all SIGs were represented.

2. Distribute SIG certificates of service: the certificates were distributed.

3. Approval of Minutes of SIG Cabinet Meeting for Annual Meeting 2013: the minutes were approved.

4. SIG Cabinet election:
   Election of Deputy Director (2014-2017)
   • Lynn Westbrook, School of Information, the University of Texas at Austin
   Election of SIG Cabinet Members (3)
   • Joan Beaudoin, School of Library and Information Science, Wayne State University (Advisor, 2015-2017)
   • Lai Ma, School of Information and Library Studies, University College, Dublin, Ireland (Advisor, 2015-2017)
   • Abebe Rorissa, Department of Information Studies, College of Computing and Information, University at Albany, State University of New York (Advisor, 2015-2017)

Nomination Committee – SIG representative Appointment

• Kristine Unsworth -- College of Computing & Informatics, Drexel University

Nominations for SIG of Year Jury member (SIG representatives) [2 members – 2 year appointment] 1 alternate
• SIG of the Year Jury consists of Kevin Comerford [SIG/DL] and Tricia Bradshaw [SIG/KM]; with Liya Deang as an alternate; also SIG Deputy Director Lynn Westbrook and Past Director Kathryn La Barre.

5. SIG Awards
   SIG Member of the Year OUR OWN -- Abebe Rorissa -- Congratulations!
   SIG Publication of the Year -- Social Informatics: Past, Present, and Future (Fichman & Rosenbaum)
   SIG of the Year -- SIG Digital Libraries (SIG DL)

6. Kathryn La Barre (SIG Cabinet Director, 2014-2015) discussion items

SIG calendar: A copy of the calendar with deadlines for the year was distributed. This was given to the SIG III chair and is also available as part of the ASIS&T SIG Officers Manual at:

Overview of past year’s accomplishments: A few highlights were presented including: an increase in the number of conference sessions and webinars co-sponsored by more than one SIG and special Bulletin issues and other publications.

7. Heather Pfeiffer discussion items

SIG Budgets
The importance of submitting the budgets by the deadline was emphasized. Also, a SIG allocation pool of $12,000 is divided among active SIGs according to a SIG's membership as a percentage of total SIG memberships as of May of the preceding year. SIGs were reminded that unused SIG funds from this allocation are returned to the general funds. Funds raised by the SIG from outside sources, such as SIG III's funds from Elsevier, carry over to the next year's SIG budget.

A motion was passed to increase the amount of a single expenditure from a SIG's budget requiring approval by the SIG Cabinet Director from "more than $200" to "more than $500".

Special Project Fund: SIGs were reminded that funds are available from this fund and they are encouraged to apply for these funds.

SIG Officers Manual, This has been updated and is available from the ASIS&T website as indicated above.

Help for Small SIGs -- In the discussion several ideas were raised, including: considering whether there are too many SIGs, and perhaps some SIGs might be combined with other SIGs with inter-related interests; having individuals from successful SIGs assist in mentoring those from SIGs that are struggling; and sharing ideas from successful SIGs via listservs, on the ASIS&T website, and at the SIG Cabinet meetings.

Send the SIG Officer list in -- SIGs were reminded to complete their updated lists and submit them to the SIG Cabinet Director before the end of the Conference. These will also be posted on the ASIS&T Website.

New Business

Web Site Changes – Diane Pennington, A brief update on the new ASIS&T Website was presented. The company Seven Hands, using Word Press for much of the content, is working with headquarters staff and others to provide several revisions and improvements to the website. A demonstration and beta test site was available at the Conference.
There was a brief discussion of ideas for the 2015 Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, and the 2015 Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. On behalf of SIG III, I offered our assistance as a potential co-sponsor of programs for both conferences and encouraged everyone to start early on planning for programs for the 2016 Conference.

In addition to conference programs, SIGs were also encouraged to collaborate on other activities, such as Webinars, in the future.

Adjournment

Immediately after the Conference, the SIG Cabinet Director, Heather Pfeiffer, provided a link to the wiki that is available with extensive and helpful information for working with SIGs: http://www.asis.org/wiki/chapters-sigs/index.php/Main_Page

Personal Note

It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve as your SIG Cabinet Representative for several years, and I asked to step down from this role, starting in the 2015 program year. I will be retiring from teaching in the summer of 2015, although I do plan to stay active in ASIS&T. I am looking forward to continuing to work with all of you on SIG III, and I hope that we will win the SIG-of-the-Year Award again in the near future. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative at the SIG Cabinet.

Anatoliy Gruzd acknowledged Toni Carbo’s contribution as a SIG Cabinet representative. Toni Carbo shared the news that Abebe Rorissa has been recognized as the SIG Member of the Year.

After the agenda was presented, Abebe Rorissa proposed a new item on the contribution of SIG III to the Bulletin.

Anatoliy Gruzd reported that the election of the officers was conducted online ahead of the Annual Meeting. He presented the list of new officers for 2014-2015.

1. Approval of the 2013 Business Meeting Minutes

Business meeting minutes from meeting in Montreal in 2013 were approved unanimously with the amendment that International Contest Paper winners will be submit their work to the Routledge/Taylor & Francis’ Library & Information Science journal (Editor: Karen MacDonald and Associate Editor: Stacy Sieck).

2. Chair’s Report (Anatoliy Gruzd)

The Chair shared the full report through e-mail prior to the Annual Meeting. In the business meeting, he highlighted the major points.

- SIG III membership has increased to 123
- The election of officers for 2014-2015 were held successfully ahead of the Annual Meeting
- The InfoShare Program was a great success with 29 nominations; seven students and information professionals from developing countries were awarded ASIS&T membership. The InfoShare officers Devendra Potnis and Selenay Aytac did an outstanding job coordinating the program.
- The first place winner of the International Paper Contest - Bhakti Gala (present at the meeting) will be recognized at the International Reception. Thanks go to the jurors for the 2014 competition: Maqsood Shaheen (Chair), Fatih Oguz (Member), and Alma Rivera (Member).

4. Treasurer’s Report

Anatoliy Gruzd summarized the treasurer’s report.

5. SIG Cabinet Meeting Report

- Toni Carbo provided a brief of the SIG Cabinet meeting. She shared the information about the newly elected Cabinet members, including SIGHI member, Abebe Rorissa.

- Heather Pfeiffer, the incoming SIG Cabinet Director highlighted the Special Project fund where SIGs can apply for additional funding to sponsor special programming.

6. International Reception

Krystyna Matusiak, Co-Chair reported on the preparations for the Raffle and Silent Auction at the International Reception. She acknowledged the ASIS&T Student Chapter at the University of Washington that had donated a gift basket with local specialties. The gift basket would be raffled at the International Reception. The proceeds from the Silent Auction and the Ruffle support ASIS&T membership for scholars and information professionals for

2014 SIG III Annual Business Meeting Minutes

SIG III Annual Meeting
Monday, November 3, 2014@2:50 – 3:50 pm

Meeting Minutes provided by Krystyna K. Matusiak

1. Welcome and Introductions
Anatoliy Gruzd, Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the SIG members and guests. He introduced the incoming chair, Shimelis Assefa and the incoming SIG Cabinet Director, Heather Pfeiffer. Introductions were made of the members present at the meeting. Two officers, Catherine Dumas and Lama Khoshaim attended the meeting through Skype.

Anatoliy Gruzd acknowledged Toni Carbo’s contribution as a SIG Cabinet representative. Toni Carbo shared the news that Abebe Rorissa has been recognized as the SIG Member of the Year.

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from developing countries through the InfoShare program.

Other Business

- Anatoliy Gruzd, Chair emphasized the importance of SIGIII sponsored webinars as a contribution to ASIS&T and a form of promoting the SIG.
- The new agenda item proposed by Abebe Rorissa was discussed. Abebe Rorissa asked SIGIII for contributing to translating the table of contents of the Bulletin. However, since there are no guidelines on the number of languages, the Board voted unanimously to form a task force led by Abebe Rorissa to explore the issue and the scope of SIG III cooperation.
- Selenay Aytac, the InfoShare officer suggested using the ASIS&T submission system for the InfoShare program since the number of submissions is growing and it is difficult to manage them through e-mails. Shimelis Assefa will follow up with Heather Pfeiffer on this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Treasurer’s report

Provided by Nureen Nizam

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Info-Share Program (2850-4121)

| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Beginning Balance | $4,990 | $3,528 |
| Donations (Raffle, Silent Auction) | $1,200 | $1,462 |
| InfoShare Memberships | -$280 | $0 |
| Ending Balance | $5,910 | $4,990 |

Digital Scholarship Fund (3221)

| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Beginning Balance | $6,720 | $5,680 |
| Donations | $0 | $3,000 |
| Expenses (Intl Paper Content) | -$2,150 | -$1,960 |
| Ending Balance | $4,570 | $6,720 |

2013-2014 SIG-III Officers

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University of Denver
Shimelis.Assefa@du.edu

Co-Chair
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McGill University
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Immediate Past Chair
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Immediate Past Co-Chair
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SIG-III Listserv, Website, and Social Media Sites

Listserv
To post a message to sigiii-l:
Send your message to sigiii-l@asis.org (all lower case). Attachments will NOT be processed.

To subscribe or view prior postings:
Visit the page
http://mail.asis.org/mailman/listinfo/sigiii-l

To unsubscribe:
Step 1. Visit your subscription page at:
http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-
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For example, if your list delivery address is msmith@yahoo.com, the
URL to access your subscription page should be:
http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-
/l/msmith@yahoo.com
Step 2. On the subscription page, type your Password to unsubscribe.

Password assistance:
If you forget your password, click the “Email My Password to Me” button to have your password e-
mailed to you.

Questions:
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(zhang82@mailbox.sc.edu) with questions regarding the sigiii-l listserv.

Website
The official SIG-III website is located at
http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/

Please contact Borchuluun Yadamsuren
(by888@mail.missouri.edu) and Fatih Oguz
(f_oguz@uncg.edu) with questions regarding the SIG-III website.
**Facebook Group**  

**LinkedIn Group**  
The official SIG-III LinkedIn group is located at [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3868177](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3868177).

**Twitter**  
The official Twitter account: [https://twitter.com/sig3i](https://twitter.com/sig3i)

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) with questions regarding the SIG-III social media accounts.

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