Remembering Gregorio Convertino

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We are saddened by the untimely passing of our Co-Editor-in-Chief Gregorio Convertino, who had worked with JSMO ever since its inception in 2013.

Based on his interests and expertise, Gregorio was a perfect match for this journal. As he, himself, wrote in his biographical sketch for the editorial statement published in the first issue of this journal: “His interests are in collaborative and social computing research. He focuses on social technologies for knowledge sharing, large-scale deliberation, and crowdsourcing for the enterprise” (A new journal for a new niche, p. 9).

Gregorio was an accomplished and well-respected researcher. By taking a holistic view of colleagues’ activities, workspaces, co-workers, and the group’s properties over time, Gregorio’s doctoral dissertation (“Awareness and knowledge sharing in collaborative computing”) set the stage for researching social collaboration technologies that benefit organizations. As he grew in his mastery of collaboration research, Gregorio made recommendations for research agendas for Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), collective intelligence in organizations, and other areas. The novelty of his work led to a dozen or more patents on subjects such as managing deliberation of idea groups, supporting targeted sharing and early curation of information, and classifying reviewers’ comments in idea-generating social media platforms.

On a more personal level, Gregorio was a wonderful colleague and friend. Since JSMO is an open access journal with no costs levied on either authors or readers, our work is, by necessity, a volunteer effort. The three of us – Co-Editor-in-Chief Laurie Damianos, founding editor Jill Drury, and Gregorio – held monthly meetings from 2013 until Gregorio’s final illness to discuss submissions, reviews, and the journal’s direction. Gregorio brought joie de vivre and exuberant good cheer to our interactions that was energizing and enjoyable, despite the difficulties of squeezing editorial duties into schedules that were already over-full. It was always clear that Gregorio cared deeply about preserving quality research on social media for organizations, while respecting and providing guidance graciously to those who submitted articles to JSMO.

We are grateful for what we learned from Gregorio and feel privileged to have shared the too-little time that he had with all of us.

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